

Brief Overview of Legal Metrology Laws

By : Rajkumar Adukia on 21 March 2014

INTRODUCTION

Metrology is the Science of Measurement. It includes theoretical & practical problems, the realization of the units of measurement and their physical representation as well as measuring instruments & their field of application. Legal Metrology is the name given to all applied metrology subjected to regulations by law or government decree.

The extent of legal metrology varies from one country to another. In most countries legal metrology covers measurements in the protection of the individual from financial, health & environmental point of view.

According to international practices, legal metrology has application in three broad fields, namely, commercial transactions, measurements needed for ensuring public health and human safety and industrial measurements.

Legal Metrology" means that part of metrology which treats units of weight and measurement, methods of weight and measurement and weighing and measuring instruments, in relation to the mandatory technical and legal requirements which have the object of ensuring public guarantee from the point of view of security and accuracy of the weightings and measurements. (Section 2(g) of Legal Metrology Act, 2009)

The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 (Act 1 of 2010) repeals and replaces the Standard of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Standards of weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985. The central government has appointed the date 01.04.2011 from which the provisions of the Act will come into force.

ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISM OF LEGAL METROLOGY IN INDIA

1. Department of Consumer Affairs under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

The Department of Consumer Affairs under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution is responsible for the formulation of policies for Monitoring Prices, availability of essential commodities, Consumer Movement in the country and Controlling of statutory bodies like Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Weights and Measures.

The weights and Measures Unit in the Department of Consumer Affairs, is the central authority for dealing with the subject and is required to handle all matters falling within the

purview of the Central Government. In addition, it has to guide, co-ordinate and supervise the enforcement activities of the state enforcement machinery.

The responsibility in relation to weights and measures is shared between the Centre and the States. Matters of national policy and other related functions such as, uniform laws on weights and measures, technical regulations, training, precision laboratory facilities and implementation of the International Recommendation are the concern of the Central Government. The State Governments and Union Territory Administration are responsible for the day to day enforcement of the laws.

2. Directorate Of Legal Metrology

Enforcement of Standards and Weights and Measures Act is entrusted with the Directorate of Legal Metrology in each state which is essentially a 3-tier Organisation comprising Inspectors of legal Metrology at the field level, Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology at the district level and Controller of Legal Metrology with four Deputy Controllers sitting at the State Level. Legal standards of weights and measures of the States and Union Territories are calibrated in the four Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSL) located at Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Faridabad. These laboratories also provide calibration services to the industries in their respective regions. They are among the recognised laboratories for conducting the model approval tests on weights and measuring instruments.

OVERVIEW OF PROVISIONS OF LEGAL METROLOGY ACT, 2009

The organization of Weights & Measures was established in 1958 with the object of bringing about the uniformity in Weights & Measures in accordance with the international standards so as to facilitate trade and commerce.

The Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 providing for establishing Standards of Weights and Measures, regulation of inter-State trade or commerce in weights and measures and other goods which are sold by weight, measure or number was enacted in 1976. In the year 1985, the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985 was enacted for enforcement of standards of weights and measures established by or under the 1976 Act.

Ever since in view of rapid advancement of science & technology and globalization of economies, there has been vast improvement in weighing and measuring techniques and has extended the scope of weights & measures. With the view to establish the standards of Weights & Measures, regulate trade and commerce in Weights & Measures and other goods which are sold or distributed by weight, measure or number and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 was enforced on 1-4-2011.

Legislations enacted by Government to regulate Legal Metrology:

1. The Legal Metrology Act, 2009

2. The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011
3. The Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011
4. The Legal Metrology (Approval of Models) Rules, 2011
5. The Legal Metrology (National Standards) Rules, 2011
6. The Legal Metrology (Numeration) Rules, 2011
7. The Indian Institute of Legal Metrology Rules, 2011

Legal Metrology Act 2009 was enacted as it became imperative for the Government to combine the provisions of the existing two Acts to get rid of anomalies and make the provisions simple. It also became necessary to keep the regulation pragmatic to the extent required for protecting the interest of consumers and at the same time keep the industry free from undue interference. Recognition of certain "Government approved Test Centres" which will be empowered to verify prescribed weight or measure also was required.

The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 , inter alia, provides for,—

- (a) Regulation of weight or measure used in transaction or for protection;
- (b) Approval of model of weight or measure;
- (c) Verification of prescribed weight or measure by Government approved Test Centre;
- (d) Prescribing qualification of legal metrology officers appointed by the Central Government or State Government;
- (e) Exempting regulation of weight or measure or other goods meant for export;
- (f) Levy of fee for various services;
- (g) Nomination of a Director by a company who will be responsible for complying with the provisions of the enactment;
- (h) Penalty for offences and compounding of offences;
- (i) Appeal against decision of various authorities; and
- (j) Empowering the Central Government to make rules for enforcing the provisions of the enactment.

Important terms under the Act

"Label" means any written, marked, stamped, printed or graphic matter affixed to, or appearing upon any pre-packaged commodity.

"Protection" means the utilisation of reading obtained from any weight or measure, for the purpose of determining any step which is required to be taken to safeguard the well-being of any human being or animal, or to protect any commodity, vegetation or thing, whether individually or collectively.

Pre-packaged commodity means a commodity which without the purchaser being present is placed in a package of whatever nature, whether sealed or not, so that the product contained therein has a pre-determined quantity.

Stamp means a mark, made by impressing, casting, engraving, etching, branding, affixing pre-stressed paper seal or any other process in relation to, any weight or measure with a view to –

(i) certifying that such weight or measure conforms to the standard specified by or under this Act, or

(ii) indicating that any mark which was previously made thereon certifying that such weight or measure conforms to the standards specified by or under this Act, has been obliterated;

“Weight or measure” means a weight or measure specified by or under this Act and includes a weighing or measuring instrument.

Standard Weight or Measure

Any weight or measure which conforms to the standard unit of such weight or measure (based on metric system or prescribed derived units) and also conforms to the provisions of section 7 (i.e. the physical characteristics, configuration, construction details, materials, equipment, performance, tolerances, period of re-verification, methods or procedures of tests shall be such as may be prescribed) as are applicable to it will be the standard weight or measure. Every non-standard or un-verified weight or measure are liable to seizure and forfeiture.

Appointment of Controller and Other Officers of Legal Metrology

Officers will be appointed by the State Government under Section 14(1) but their qualification will be prescribed by the Central Government under Section 52(2)(h).

Declaration on Pre-packaged commodities

Manufacturing, packing, selling or importing any pre-packaged commodity is prohibited unless it is in a standard quantity and carries all prescribed declarations. Any advertisement mentioning retail price of packaged commodity should also contain the net quantity or number of the commodity contained in the package.

Approval of Model

All weights or measures, except cast iron, brass, bullion or carat weight, beam scales, length measure (but not measuring tape) and capacity measures up to 20 litre capacities, will require approval of model before manufacturing or importing.

Licence

No person should manufacture, sell or repair any weight or measure without obtaining a

licence from the Controller of Legal Metrology. A licensee is required to maintain records and registers as prescribed. He is also required to produce the records and registers at the time of inspection.

Verification of Weights and Measures

Every weight or measure should be verified before putting them into use in any transaction. The Central Government will prescribe the kinds of weights and measures which should be verified by the Government Approved Test Centres. The Test Centres will be notified by the Central/State Governments.

Compounding of Offences

Some of the offenses may be compounded before or after the institution of a prosecution on payment of a prescribed sum. No offence can be compounded if the same or similar offence was committed earlier by the person within three years of date of first offence which was compounded.

Offences by Companies

A company may nominate a person who will be responsible for the conduct of the company. Such nomination should be communicated to the Director of Legal Metrology or the concerned Controller. The nominated person and the company itself will be held responsible for violation of provisions of the Act. When no person is nominated, the person who is in charge or responsible to the company will be held responsible. Even if a person is nominated, any other person responsible to the company and due to whose consent or negligence led to the violation will also be held liable for any offence committed. When a company is convicted, the Court may direct the company to publish its name and the offence committed by it in the newspapers at the cost of the company.

Appeal

Every decision or order of an officer of Legal Metrology will be appealable to the next higher authority within 60 days of passing the order or decision. The Central or the State Government may call for records from its officer for examination and passing appropriate orders.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER LEGAL METROLOGY LAWS

1. Registration as Importer under the Legal Metrology Act 2009
2. Obtaining licences from the Controller of Legal Metrology.
3. Advisory on the weights and measures to be used in the course of business.
4. Advisory on the declarations and particulars to be mentioned on pre-packaged commodities.

5. Obtaining approval of model of weights and measures before manufacturing or importing any weight or measure.
6. Verification and stamping of weights or measures at the Government approved Test Centres.
7. Maintenance of records and registers.
8. Compliance audit.
9. Representation before the concerned authorities on behalf of the client.

USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://www.fcamin.nic.in> – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

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The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi the , 2011.

GSR.....In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with clause (j) and (q) of sub-section (2) of section 52 of the Legal Metrology Act 2009, (1 of 2010), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. Short title, and Commencement.- (1)These rules may be called The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

(2) They shall come into force on the 1st day of March, 2011.

2. Definitions:- In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires-

(a) "Act" means the Legal Metrology Act 2009, (1 of 2010);

(b) "dealer" in relation to any commodity in packaged form, means a person who, or a firm or a Hindu undivided family which, carries on directly or otherwise, the business of buying, selling, supplying or distributing any such commodity whether for cash or for deferred payment or for commission, remuneration or other valuable consideration, and includes a commission agent who carries on such business on behalf of any principal, but does not include a manufacturer who manufactures any commodity which is sold or distributed in a packaged form except where such commodity is sold by such manufacturer to any other person other than a dealer ;

(c) "lot" means –

(i) in the case of packages which have been stored, the total number of such packages stored; and

(ii) in the case of packages which are on or at the end of the packing line, the maximum hourly output of packages;'

(d) "manufacturer" in relation to any commodity in packaged form, means a person who, or a firm or a Hindu undivided family which, produces, makes or manufactures such commodity and includes a person, firm or Hindu undivided family who or which puts, or causes to be put, any mark on any packaged commodity, not produced, made or manufactured by him or it, and the mark claims the commodity in the package to be commodity produced, made or manufactured by such person, firm or Hindu undivided family, as the case may be;

(e) "Maximum permissible error", in relation to the quantity contained in an individual package, means an error in deficiency which, subject to the provision of these rules, does not exceed the limits specified in the First Schedule;

(f) "net quantity", in relation to commodity contained in a package, means the quantity by weight, measure or number of such commodity contained in that package, excluding the packaging or wrapper;

(g) "packer" means a person who, or a firm or a Hindu undivided family, which pre-packs any commodity, whether in any bottle, tin, wrapper or otherwise, in units suitable for sale whether wholesale or retail;

(h) "principal display panel", in relation to a package, means the total surface area of the package where the information required under these rules are to be given in the following manner, namely;

(i) all the information could be grouped together and given at one place; or

(ii) the pre-printed information could be grouped together and given in one place and on line information grouped together in other place;

(i) "quantity" in relation to commodity contained in a package, means the quantity by weight, measure or number of such commodity contained in that package;

(j) "retail dealer" in relation to any commodity in packaged form means a dealer who directly sells such packages to the consumer and includes, in relation to such packages as are sold directly to the consumer, a wholesale dealer who makes such direct sale;

(i) "retail package" means the packages which are intended for retail sale to the ultimate consumer for the purpose of consumption of the commodity contained therein and includes the imported packages :

Provided that for the purposes of this clause, the expression 'ultimate consumer' shall not include industrial or institutional consumers;

(k) "retail sale", in relation to a commodity, means the sale, distribution or delivery of such commodity through retail sales shops agencies or other instrumentalities for consumption by an individual or a group of individuals or any other consumer;

(l) "retail sale price" means the maximum price at which the commodity in packaged form may be sold to the consumer and the price shall be printed on the package in the manner given below;

'Maximum or Max. retail price.....inclusive of all taxes or in the form MRP Rs.....incl., of all taxes after taking into account the fraction of less than fifty paise to be rounded off to the preceding rupees and fraction of above 50 paise and up to 95 paise to the rounded off to fifty paise;

(m) "section" means a section of the Act;

(n) "Schedule" means a Schedule appended to these rules;

(o) "standard package" means a package containing the specified quantity of a commodity;

(p) "wholesale dealer" in relation to any commodity in packaged form means a dealer who does not directly sell such commodity to any consumer but distributes or sells such commodity through one or more intermediaries;

(q) "wholesale package" means a package containing-

(i) a number of retail packages, where such first mentioned package is intended for sale, distribution or delivery to an intermediary and is not intended for sale direct to a single consumer; or

(ii) a commodity sold to an intermediary in bulk to enable such intermediary to sell, distribute or deliver such commodity to the consumer in smaller quantities;

(iii) ten or more than ten retail packages provided that the retail packages are labeled as required under the rules.

(r) words and expression used herein and not defined but defined in the Act, shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

CHAPTER –II PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PACKAGES INTENDED FOR RETAIL SALE

3. Applicability of the Chapter- The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to,-

(a) packages of commodities containing quantity of more than 25 kg or 25 litre excluding cement and fertilizer sold in bags up to 50 kg; and

(b) packaged commodities meant for industrial consumers or institutional consumers.

Explanation :- For the purpose of this rule,-

i) "institutional consumer" means the institutional consumer like transportation, Airways, Railways, Hotels, Hospitals or any other service institutions who buy packaged commodities directly from the manufacturer for use by that institution.

ii) "industrial Consumer" means the industrial consumer who buy packaged commodities directly from the manufacturer for use by that industry.

4. Regulation for pre-packing and sale etc. of commodities in packaged form. - On and from the commencement of these rules, no person shall pre-pack or cause or permit to be pre-packed any commodity for sale, distribution or delivery unless the package in which the commodity is pre-packed, a label is securely affixed and such declarations as are required to be made under these rules.

Explanation.- The existence of packages without the declaration of retail sale price within the manufacturer's premises shall not be construed as a violation of these rules and it shall be ensured that all packages leaving the premises of manufacturer for their destination shall have declaration of retail sale price on them as required in this rule.

5. Specific commodities to be packed and sold in recommended standard packages. - The commodities specified in the Second Schedule shall be packed for sale, distribution or delivery in such standard quantities as are specified in that Schedule:

Provided that if a commodity specified in the Second Schedule is packed in a size other than that prescribed in that Schedule, a declaration that 'Not a standard pack size under the Legal Metrology (packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 or 'non standard size under the Legal Metrology (packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011' shall be made prominently on the label of such package.

6. Declarations to be made on every package. - (1) (a) the name and address of the manufacturer, or where the manufacturer is not the packer, the name and address of the manufacturer and packer and for any imported package the name and address of the importer shall be mentioned on every package.

Explanation I.- If any name and address of a company is mentioned on the label without any qualifying words 'manufactured by' or 'packed by', it shall be presumed that such name and address shall be that of the manufacturer and the liability shall be determined accordingly;

Explanation II. - If the brand name and address of the brand owner appear on the label as a marketer, then the brand owner shall be held responsible for any violation of these rules and action as may be required shall be initiated against the deemed manufacturer and in the event of more than one name and address appearing in the label, prosecution shall be launched against the manufacturer indicated on the label in the first place and not against all of them.

Explanation III. - In respect of packages containing food articles, the provisions of this sub-rule shall not apply, and instead, the requirement of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (37 of 1954) and the rules made there under shall apply

(b) The common or generic names of the commodity contained in the package and in case of packages with more than one product, the name and number or quantity of each product shall be mentioned on the package.

(c) The net quantity, in terms of the standard unit of weight or measure, of the commodity contained in the package or where the commodity is packed or sold by number, the number of the commodity contained in the package shall be mentioned.

(d) The month and year in which the commodity is manufactured or pre-packed or imported shall be mentioned in the package.

Provided that for packages containing food articles, the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 (37 of 1954) and the rules made there under shall apply;

Provided further that nothing in this sub-clause shall apply in case of packages containing seeds which are labeled and certified under the provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966 (54 of 1966) and the rules made there under;

Provided that a manufacturer may indicate the month and year using a rubber stamp without overwriting.

Provided also that for packages containing cosmetics products, the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 shall apply.

(e) the retail sale price of the package;

Provided that for packages containing alcoholic beverages or spirituous liquor, the State Excise Laws and the rules made there under shall be applicable within the State in which it is manufactured and where the state excise laws and rules made there under do not provide for declaration of retail sale price, the provisions of these rules shall apply.

(f) Where the sizes of the commodity contained in the package are relevant, the dimensions of the commodity contained in the package and if the dimensions of the different pieces are different, the dimensions of each such different piece shall be mentioned.

(g) such other matter as are specified in these rules:

Provided that –

(A) no declaration as to the month and year in which the commodity is manufactured or pre-packed shall be required to be made on--

(i) any package containing bidis or incense sticks;

(ii) any domestic liquefied petroleum gas cylinder of 14.2kg or 5kg, bottled and marketed by a public sector undertaking;

(B) where any packaging material bearing thereon the month in which any commodity was expected to have been pre-packed is not exhausted during that month, such packaging material may be used for pre-packing the concerned commodity produced or manufactured during the next succeeding month and not thereafter, but the Central Government may, if it is satisfied that such packaging material could not be exhausted during the period aforesaid by reason of any circumstance beyond the control of the manufacturer or packer as the case may be extend the time during which such packaging material may be used, and, where any such packaging material is exhausted before the expiry of the month indicated thereon, the packaging material intended to be used during the next succeeding month may be used for pre-packing the concerned commodity;

Provided that the said provision shall not apply to the packages containing food products, where the 'Best before or Use before' period is ninety days or less from the date of manufacture or packing.'

(C) no declaration as to the retail sale price shall be required to be made on

(i) any package containing bidi;

(ii) any domestic liquefied petroleum gas cylinder of which the price is covered under the Administrative Price Mechanism of the Government.

Explanation I: The month and the year in which commodity is pre-packed may be expressed either in words, or by numerals indicating the month and the year, or by both.

Explanation II: Liquid milk does not include condensed milk.

(2) Every package shall bear the name, address, telephone number, e mail address, if available, of the person who can be or the office which can be, contacted, in case of consumer complaints.

(3) It shall not be permissible to affix individual stickers on the package for altering or making declaration required under these rules:

Provided that for reducing the Maximum Retail Price (MRP), a sticker with the revised lower MRP (inclusive of all taxes) may be affixed and the same shall not cover the MRP declaration made by the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be, on the label of the package.

(4) Where a commodity consists of a number of components and these components are packed in two or more units, for sale as a single commodity, the declaration required to be made under sub-rule (1) shall appear on the main package and such package shall also carry information about the other accompanying packages or such declaration may be given on individual packages and intimation to that effect may be given on the main package and if the components are sold as spare parts, all declarations shall be given on each package.

7. Principal display panel-its area, size and letter etc.- (1) In the case of a package having a capacity of five cubic centimeters or less, the principal display panel may be a card or tape affixed firmly to the package and shall bear the required information.

(2) The height of any numeral in the declaration required under these rules, on the principal display panel shall not be less than,-

(i) as shown in Table-I, if the net quantity is declared in terms of weight or volume;

(ii) as shown in Table-II, if the net quantity is declared in terms of length, area or number.

(3) The height of letters in the declaration shall not be less than 1 mm height and when blown, formed, molded, embossed or perforated, the height of letters shall not be less than 2 mm.

Provided that the width of the letter or numeral shall not be less than one third of its height, except in the case of numeral '1' and letters (i), (l) and (I);

TABLE-I
Minimum height of numeral

Serial Number	Net quantity in weight / volume	Minimum height in mm	
		Normal case	When blown , formed, molded, embossed or perforated on container
1	Upto 200g/ ml	1	2
2	Above 200g/ ml and upto 500g/ml	2	4
3	Above 500g/ ml	4	6

TABLE-II
Minimum height of numeral

Serial Number	Net quantity in length, area or number, area of principal display panel	Minimum height in mm	
		Normal case	When blown , formed, molded, embossed or perforated on container
1	Upto 100 cm ²	1	2
2	Above 100 cm ² and upto 500 cm ²	2	4
3	Above 500 cm ² and upto 2500 cm ²	4	6
4	Above 2500 cm ²	6	6

(4) The provisions under sub-rule (1) to (3) shall not apply to a package if the information to be specified on such package under this rule is also required to be given by or under any other law for the time being in force.

8. Declaration where to appear.- (1) Every declaration required to be made under these rules shall appear on the principal display panel.

Provided that the area surrounding the quantity declaration shall be free from printed information.

(a) above and below by a space equal to at least the height of the numeral in the declaration, and

(b) to the left and right by a space at least twice the height of numeral in the declaration.

(2) For soft drink, ready to serve fruit beverages or the like, the bottle which is returnable by the consumer for being refilled, the retail sale price may be indicated either on the crown cap, or on the bottle or on both and if the retail sale price is indicated on the crown cap or the bottle, it is sufficient to indicate the retail sale price in the form of 'MRP Rs....'.

9. Manner in which declaration shall be made.- (1) Every declaration which is required to be made on a package under these rules shall be –

(a) legible and prominent;

(b) numerals of the retail sale price and net quantity declaration shall be printed, painted or inscribed on the package in a colour that contrasts conspicuously with the background of the label;

Provided that,--

(a) where any label information is blown, formed or molded on a glass or plastic surface such information need not be required to be presented in a contrasting colour;

(b) where any declaration on a package is printed either in the form of hand-writing or hand-script, such declaration shall be clear, unambiguous and legible.

(2) No declaration shall be made so as to require it to be read through any liquid commodity contained in the package.

(3) Where a package is provided with an outside container or wrapper such container or wrapper shall also contain all the declarations which are required to appear on the package except where such container or wrapper itself is transparent and the declarations on the package itself are easily readable through such outside wrapper.

Provided that no such declarations on the inner package is required if the inner package does not contain any declaration on its outer cover.

(4) The particulars of the declarations required to be specified under this rule on a package shall either be in Hindi in Devnagri script or in English:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-rule shall prevent the use of any other language in addition to Hindi or English language.

10. Declaration of name and address of the manufacturer, etc.-(1) Subject to the provisions of rule 6, every package kept, offered or exposed for sale or sold shall bear conspicuously on it, the name and complete address of the manufacturer, or where the manufacturer is not the packer, the name and address of the manufacturer and the packer and in case of imported packages, the name and address of the importer:

Provided that for packages of capacity 5 cubic cm or less, it shall be a sufficient compliance of this sub-rule, if a mark or inscription which would enable the consumer to identify the manufacturer or packer or the importer, as the case may be, is made on the package:

Provided further that where any commodity manufactured outside India is packed in India, the package shall also contain on the principal display panel the name and complete address of the packer or the importer in India.

Explanation.- In this sub-rule, 'complete address' means, the postal address at which the factory is situated, and, in any other case, the name of the street, number (if any) assigned to the premises of the manufacturer or packer and either the name of the city and State where the business is carried on by the manufacturer or packer or the Postal Index Number [PIN] Code so that a consumer can identify and locate the manufacturer or packer or importer, as the case may be.

(2) The name of the manufacturer or packer or importer shall be the actual corporate name, or if not incorporated, the name under which the business is conducted by such manufacturer or packer or importer in India.

11. General provisions relating to declaration of quantity.—(1) In declaring the net quantity of the commodity contained in a package, the weight of wrappers and materials other than the commodity shall be excluded.—

(2) Where a commodity in a package is not likely to undergo any variation in weight or measure, on account of the environmental conditions, the quantity declared on the package shall correspond to the net quantity which will be received by the consumer, and the declaration of quantity of the commodity as declared on the package, and the declaration of quantity on such package shall not be qualified by the words 'when packed' or the like.

(3) Save as otherwise provided in sub-rule (4), where a commodity in package is likely to undergo variations in weight or measure on account of environmental conditions and such variation is negligible, the declaration of quantity in relation to such package shall be made after taking into account such variation so that the consumer may receive not less than the net quantity of the commodity as declared on the package, and the declaration of quantity on such package shall not also be qualified by the words 'when packed' or the like.

(4) The declaration of quantity in relation to commodities which are likely to undergo significant variations in weight or measures on account of environmental or other conditions may be qualified by the words "when packed", as specified in the Third Schedule.

12. Manner in which declaration of quantity shall be.—(1) The declaration of quantity shall be expressed in terms of such unit of weight, measure or number or a combination of weight, measure or number as would give an accurate and adequate information to the consumer with regard to the quantity of the commodity contained in the package.

(2) Except in the cases of commodities specified in the Fourth Schedule, the declaration of quantity shall be in terms of the unit of –

(a) mass, if the commodity is solid, semi-solid, viscous or a mixture of solid and liquid;

(b) length, if the commodity is sold by linear measure;

(c) area, if the commodity is sold by area measure;

(d) volume, if the commodity is liquid or is sold by cubic measure; or

(e) number, if the commodity is sold by number:

(3) Where the declaration of quantity has been made in terms of mass, the manufacturer or importer, as the case may be, the packer may, at his option make an additional declaration on the package as to the number of commodities contained in the package.

(4) Where the declaration of quantity by weight or measure or number is not sufficient to give to the consumer full information with regard to the dimensions or number of commodity contained

in the package, such declaration shall be accompanied by a declaration of the dimensions or number, or both, where necessary, of the commodity contained in the package.

(5) Where it is necessary to communicate to the consumer any additional information about the commodity contained in a package, such information shall also appear on the same panel in which the other information, as required by these rules, have been indicated.

(6) The declaration of quantity shall not contain any word or expression which tends to create an exaggerated, misleading or inadequate impression as to the quantity of the commodity contained in the package, for example, words or expressions like-'minimum', 'not less than', 'average', 'about', 'approximately' or other words of a similar nature.

(7) For packages having capacity 5 cubic cm or less, the declaration of quantity shall be made on a tag, card, tape, or any other similar device affixed to the container and every such tag, card, tape or other device shall contain mark or inscription which will enable the consumer to identify the manufacturer or packer, as the case may be.

13. Statement of units of weight, measure or number.- (1) The units of weight or measure or number shall be specified in accordance with the units specified in sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3), as the case may be.

(2) When expressing a quantity less than,-

- (a) one kilogram, the unit of weight shall be the gram;
- (b) one metre, the unit of length shall be the centimetre;
- (c) one square metre, the unit of area shall be the square decimetre;
- (d) one cubic metre, the unit of volume shall be one cubic centimetre;
- (e) one cubic decimetre, the unit of volume shall be the cubic centimetre;
- (f) one litre, the unit of volume shall be the millilitre.

(3) When expressing a quantity of equal to or more than-

- (a) one kilogram, the unit of weight shall be the kilogram and any fraction of a kilogram shall be expressed in terms of decimal of sub-multiples of kilogram or in terms of grams;
- (b) one metre, the unit of length shall be the metre and any fraction of a metre shall be expressed in terms of decimal of sub-multiples of the metre or in terms of centimetre;
- (c) square metre, the unit of the area shall be the square metre and any fraction of a square metre shall be expressed in terms of decimal of sub-multiple of the square metre.
- (d) cubic metre, the unit of volume shall be the cubic metre and any fraction of a cubic metre shall be expressed in terms of decimal sub-multiple of the cubic metre;
- (e) one litre, the unit of volume shall be the litre and any fraction of a litre shall be expressed in terms of decimal of sub-multiple of the litre:

Provided that where the quantity to be expressed is equal to one kilogram, one metre, one square metre, one cubic decimetre, one cubic metre or one litre, as the case may be, such quantity may be expressed at the option of the manufacturer or the packer on the importer, as

the case may be, in terms of gram, centimetre, square decimetre, cubic centimetre, cubic decimetre or millilitre as the case may be.

(4) No number called the dozen, score, gross, great gross or the like shall be specified or indicated on any package.

(5) (i) No system of units other than the International System of Units shall be used in furnishing the net quantity of the packages and

(ii) For items sold by number the symbol should be N or U.

14. Declarations with regard to dimensions of certain commodities.- Where a package contains commodities like bed-sheets, hemmed fabric materials, dhoties, sarees, napkins, pillow-covers, towels, table cloths or similar other commodities, the number and the dimensions of finished size of such commodities shall also be declared on the package or on the label affixed thereto:

Provided that where the package contains more than one piece of different dimensions, the package shall also contain a declaration as to the dimensions and the retail sale price of each such piece:

Provided further that the dimensions of the commodities and the sale price thereof shall also be marked on each individual piece.

15. Declaration with regard to dimensions and weight to be made on packages in certain cases.- Where the dimensions and weight, or combination thereof, a commodity has or have a relationship to the price of that commodity, the declaration of quantity on the package containing such commodity, shall also include a declaration as to such dimensions, weight or combination.

16. Declarations to be made with regard to the number of usable sheets to be stated.- In the case of a package containing sheets like aluminum foil, facial tissues, waxed paper, toilet paper or any other type of sheet, the declaration of quantity on the package shall also include a statement as to the number of usable sheets contained in the package and the dimensions of each such sheet.

17. Declarations with regard to the dimensions of container type commodities. - The commodities shall be expressed as bags, boxes, cups, pans or the like designed and sold in retail trade for being used as containers for other materials or objects and shall be labeled with the declaration of quantity as follows.—

(i) for bag-type commodities, the number of bags which the package may contain, followed by linear dimensions of the bags, whether packaged in a perforated roll or otherwise;

(ii) for square, oblong, rectangular or similarly shaped containers, the number of containers which the package may contain, followed by length, width, and if required, depth of the container.

(iii) for circular or generally round-shaped containers, not being cups or the like the number of commodities contained therein followed by diameter and, if necessary, depth of the container.

(iv) When the use of a container is related by label references, the standard weight or measure, to the capability of the container to hold a specific quantity of commodity or a class of commodities such references shall be included in the declaration of quantity.

18. Provisions relating to wholesale dealer and retail dealers.-(1) No wholesale dealer or retail dealer or **importer** shall sell, distribute, deliver, display or store for sale any commodity in the packaged form unless the package complies with in all respects, the provisions of the Act and these rules.

(2) No retail dealer or other person including manufacturer, packer, importer and wholesale dealer shall make any sale of any commodity in packed form at a price exceeding the retail sale price thereof.

(3) Where, after any commodity has been pre-packed for sale, any tax payable in relation to such commodity is revised, the retail dealer or any other person shall not make any retail sale of such commodity at a price exceeding the revised retail sale price, communicated to him by the manufacturer, or where the manufacturer is not the packer, the packer, and it shall be, the duty of the manufacturer or packer as the case may be, to indicate by not less than two advertisements in one or more newspapers and also by circulation of notices to the dealers and to the Director in the Central Government and Controllers of Legal Metrology in the States and Union Territories, the revised prices of such packages but the difference between the price marked on the package and the revised price shall not, in any case, be higher than the extent of increase in the tax or in the case of imposition of fresh tax higher than the fresh tax so imposed: Provided that publication in any newspaper, of such revised price shall not be necessary where such revision is due to any increase in, or imposition or, any tax payable under any law made by the State Legislation:

Provided further that the retail dealer or other person, shall not charge such revised prices in relation to any packages except those packages which bear marking indicating that they were pre-packed in the month in which such tax has been revised or fresh tax has been imposed or in the month immediately following the month aforesaid;

Provided also that where the revised prices are lower than the price marked on the package, the retail dealer or other person shall not charge any price in excess of the revised price, irrespective of the month in which the commodity was pre-packed.]

(4) Nothing in sub-rule (3) shall apply to a package which is not required, under these rules to indicate the month and the year in which it was pre-packed.

(5) No wholesale dealer or retail dealer or other person shall obliterate, smudge or alter the retail sale price, indicated by the manufacturer or the packer or the importer, as the case may be, on the package or on the label affixed thereto.

(6) The manufacturer or packer or the importer shall not alter the price on the wrapper once printed and used for packing.

(7) All retailers who are covered under the Value Added Tax VAT or Turn Over Tax (TOT) and dealing in packaged commodities whose net content declaration is by weight or volume or a combination thereof shall maintain a electronic weighing machine of at least accuracy class III, with smallest division of at least 1 g, with facility to issue a printed receipt indicating among other things, the gross quantity, price and the like at a prominent place in their retail premises, free of cost, for the benefit of consumers and the consumers may check the weight of their packaged commodities purchased from the shop on such machine.

19. Inspection of quantity and error in packages at the premises of the manufacturer or packer.-(1) With a view to ascertaining whether any package or lot of packages complies with provisions of these rules in all respects, the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer empowered to inspect under section 15 of the Act (hereafter referred to as in these rules) the authorized person may examine the packages and carry out the tests at the premises of the

manufacturer or where the manufacturer is not the packer, of the packer and when he carries out such examination or tests, he shall draw samples from such lot of packages, in such manner and in such number as are specified in the Fifth Schedule and the tests aforesaid shall be carried out in accordance with the method specified in the Sixth Schedule.

(2) The Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall enter in the Form set out in the Seventh Schedule, the detailed results of the tests carried out by him under sub-rule (1) and shall obtain, on the said Form, the signature of the manufacturer or, as the case may be, of the packer, or his authorized agent, or, in the absence of both, or on their refusal to affix such signature, the signature of a competent witness and copy of the data sheet containing the result shall be given to the manufacturer or packer, as the case may be.

(3) On the completion of the examination and tests carried out under sub-rule (1), the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall make a report indicating therein his findings with regard to the declarations required to be made under these rules and as to the net quantity actually contained in the sample packages and the extent of error, if any, noticed by him and furnish a copy of such report to the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be.

(4) If it appears from the report referred to in sub-rule (3) that-

(a) the statistical average of the net quantity contained in the packages drawn as samples is lesser than the quantity declared on the packages or on the labels affixed thereto; or

(b) any such package shows an error in deficiency greater than the maximum permissible error, the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall, if for good and sufficient reason, requested by the manufacturer or packer or his authorized agent, so to do, take out as soon as may be practicable, fresh samples and carry out fresh tests in accordance with the provisions of these rules and where fresh tests are made, the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer, as the case may be, shall collect a fee of rupees two thousand five hundred for carrying out fresh test.

Provided that where fresh tests are carried out, no package contained in the lot, which was previously tested under this rule, shall be sold or distributed by the manufacturer or packer, as the case may be, unless the provisions of the sub-rule (5) or as the case may be, sub-rule (6), are complied with.

(5)(a) where, as a result of any test carried out under this rule, it is found that any package contained in the lot does not conform to all or any of the provisions of the Act or of these rules, the manufacturer or the packer shall make a cent per cent check of the packages contained in the lot and pick out from the lot the packages which conform to all the provisions of the Act and of these rules.

(b) When the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer is satisfied that the packages picked out by the manufacturer or packer conforms to all the provisions of the Act and of these rules, he shall authorize the sale, distribution or delivery of such packages.

(c) Where, as a result of such cent per cent check by the manufacturer or packer, any package is found to be not conforming to all or any or of the provisions of the Act or of these rules, such package shall not be sold, distributed or delivered until it has been re-packed, re-processed or relabeled, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the Act and of these rules.

(6) A lot of packages shall be approved for sale if, and only if, as a result of the tests carried out under this rule, it is found that- (a) the statistical average of the net quantity contained in the sample packages is equal to, or more than, the quantity declared on the package or on the label affixed thereto.

(b) the extent of error in deficiency in none of such sample packages exceeds the maximum permissible error.

(7) The requirement of mandatory declarations on the packages shall be ensured either at the factory level or at the depot of the factory.

(8) For non-compliance of the provisions of this rule, action may be taken after seizing five representative samples of the packages as evidence and the rest of the packages may be released once compliance is ensured by the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be.

(9) each such package bears thereon or on a label affixed thereto- the declarations required to be made under these rules.

20. Action to be taken on completion of inspection of packages at the premises of the manufacturer or the packer.- (1) If it appears from the report referred to in sub-rule (3) of rule 19 that,-

(a) the statistical average of the net quantity contained in the packages drawn as samples under that rule is lesser than the quantity declared on the packages or on the labels affixed thereto, or any such package shows an error in deficiency greater than the maximum permissible error, or

(b) any such package does not bear thereon or on label affixed thereto the declarations to be made under these rules, the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall take action the following action, namely:-

(i) seize the packages drawn by him as samples and shall take adequate steps for the safe custody of the seized packages until they are produced in the appropriate court as evidence;

(ii) based on the evidence initiate action for violations of the provisions of the Act and these rules:

Provided that no such action shall be taken if fresh tests are carried out under sub-rule (4) of rule 19, but if after such fresh tests any such error or omission as is referred to in this sub-rule is detected, the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall take appropriate action as specified in this sub-rule in accordance with the provisions of the Act against the manufacturer or, as the case may be, the packer.

(2) The disposal of the seized packages shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).

21. Inspection of quantity and error in packages at the premises of the wholesale dealer or retail dealer (1) Ordinarily, any test in relation to the net quantity contained in a package shall not be carried out at the premises of the retail dealer or the wholesale dealer, unless- a complaint is received by the Director or Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer who has reason to suspect that any package has been tampered with or that there has been any pilferage or leakage of the commodity contained in the packages and any package, or any label affixed thereto, does not bear thereon all or any of the declarations which are required to be made under these rules.

(2) Where any test is carried out in pursuance of the provisions of sub-rule (1), the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall verify whether the quantity contained in the package corresponds to the quantity declared on such packages or any label affixed thereto and where quantity contained in package is less than the declared quantity, whether the deficiency is more than the maximum permissible error in relation to that commodity.

(3) Where the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer finds on a test carried out under this rule that the error in deficiency in any package kept or stored for sale, distribution or delivery at the premises of the retail or wholesale dealer is more than the maximum permissible error in relation to that commodity, he shall seize such package and take appropriate action against the retail dealer or the wholesale dealer, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the Act:

Provided that where the package bears the legend 'when packed', no punitive action shall be taken against the retail dealer or wholesale dealer if the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer is satisfied after necessary test that the deficiency in the net quantity contained in package is due to environmental conditions.

(4) Where as a result of any test made under this rule, it is found that the net quantity contained in the package conforms to the declared quantity or where there is a deficiency, such deficiency is not more than the maximum permissible error, the retail dealer shall be at liberty to sell or deliver or distribute such commodity at the price determined on the basis of the quantity found on such tests.

(5) Where, as a result of any test made under this rule, it is found that any package, or any label affixed thereto, does not bear thereon all or any of the declarations required to be made under these rules, it shall be lawful for the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer to make such enquiries as to the source from which such package was received by the whole sale dealer or the retail dealer as the case may be, as he may think fit.

22. Establishment of maximum permissible error on package.- (1) The maximum permissible error in relation to the commodities shall be such as is indicated in the First Schedule.

(2) While establishing the maximum permissible error in relation to the net quantity of commodities contained in packages, due account shall be taken of the following causes which may lead to variation in quantity, namely:-

(a) variations caused by unavoidable deviation in weighing, measuring or counting the contents of individual packages that may occur in good packaging practice;

(b) variations caused by the ordinary and customary exposure to conditions, such as, climate, transport, storage or the like that normally occur in good distribution practice after the commodity is introduced in trade or commerce; and

(c) variations due to the nature of packaging material or container.

(3) The Director or Controller or the Legal Metrology officer shall determine, or cause to be determined, in relation to any commodity, the declaration in respect of the net quantity of which is permitted to be qualified by the words 'when packed'; the reasonable variations which may take place by reason of the environmental conditions.

23. Deceptive packages to be repacked or in default to be seized.- (1) If, on the determination of the quantity contained in the sample packages, the Director or Controller or the Legal Metrology officer the authorized person finds that the quantity contained in the package agrees with the declaration of the quantity made on the package or label thereon but the package is a deceptive package, he shall require the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be, to repack and re-label such package and in the event of the omission or failure on the part of the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be, to repack or re-label such deceptive package, in accordance with the standards established by or under these rules, seize them, take

appropriate punitive action in accordance with the Act and take adequate steps for the safe custody of such packages until they are produced in a court as evidence.

Explanation: For the purpose of this rule, 'deceptive package' means a package which is so designed as to deliberately given to the consumer an exaggerated or misleading impression as to the quantity of the commodity contained therein, except where bigger dimensions of the package can be justified by the manufacturer or the packer, as the case may be, on the ground that such dimensions are necessary for giving protection to the commodity contained in such package or for meeting the requirements of the machine used for filling such package.

(2) If the seized packages contain any commodity which is subject to speedy or natural decay, the Director or Controller or the Legal Metrology officer shall dispose of the commodity in accordance with the rules made under the Act.

CHAPTER III PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO WHOLESALE PACKAGES

24. Declarations applicable to be made on every wholesale package - Every wholesale package shall bear thereon a legible, definite, plain and conspicuous declaration as to –

(a) The name and address of the manufacturer or importer or where the manufacturer or importer is not the packer, of the packer;

(b) the identity of the commodity contained in the package; and

(c) the total number of retail package contained in such wholesale package or the net quantity in terms of standard units of weights, measures or number of the commodity contained in wholesale package;

Provided that nothing in this rule shall apply in relation to a wholesale package if a declaration similar to the declarations specified in this rule, is required to be made on such wholesale packages by or under any other law for the time being in force.

CHAPTER IV EXPORT AND IMPORT OF PACKAGED COMMODITIES

25. Restrictions on sale of export packages in India.-An export package shall not be sold in India unless the manufacturer or packer has re-packed or relabeled the commodity in accordance with the provisions contained in Chapter II, and where any export package is sold in India without such re-packing or re-labeling, such package shall be liable to be seized in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

CHAPTER V EXEMPTIONS

26. Exemption in respect of certain packages.-Nothing contained in these rules shall apply to any package containing a commodity if—

(a) the net weight or measure of the commodity is ten gram or ten milli litre or less, if sold by weight or measure;

- (b) any package containing fast food items packed by restaurant or hotel and the like;
- (c) it contains scheduled formulations and non-scheduled formulations covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 made under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955)';
- (d) agricultural form produces in packages of above 50 kg'.

CHAPTER VI REGISTRATION OF MANUFACTURERS AND PACKERS

27. Registration of manufacturers, packers and importers.- (1) Every individual, firm, Hindu undivided family, society, company or corporation who or which pre-packs or imports any commodity for sale, distribution or delivery shall make an application, accompanied by a fee of rupees five hundred, to the Director or the Controller for the registration of his or its name and complete address; and every such application shall be made,-

- (i) in the case of an applicant pre-packing or importing any commodity at the commencement of these rules, within ninety days from such commencement; or
- (ii) in the case of any applicant who or which commences pre-packing or importing of any commodity after the commencement of these rules, within thirty days from the date on which he or it commences such pre-packing.

(2) Every application referred in sub-rule (1) shall contain the following particulars, namely:-

- (a) the name of the applicant;
- (b) the complete address of the premises at which the pre-packing or import of one or more commodities is made by the applicant; and
- (c) the name of the commodity or commodities pre-packed or imported by the applicant.

Explanation: In this sub-rule, 'complete address' has the meaning assigned to it in the explanation to sub-rule (1) of rule 10.'

(3) For making any alteration in the registration certificate issued under sub rule (1), a fee of rupees one hundred shall be paid by the concerned manufacturer or packer or importer to the Director or Controller.

(4) On receipt of the application made under sub-rule (1), the Director or Controller, who shall be the Registering Authority, shall-

- (a) if the application is not complete in all respects, return the same to the applicant within a period of seven working days from the date of receipt of the application;
- (b) if the application is complete in all respects, register the applicant and grant a registration certificate to the applicant to that effect.

28. Registration of shorter address permissible. - (1) It shall be lawful for any manufacturer or packer to make an application to the Director or the Controller for the registration of a shorter address, in addition to the complete address referred to in sub-rule (2) of rule 27.

(2) The Director or the Controller may, if he is satisfied after inquiry that the shorter address is sufficient to enable the consumer or any other person to identify the manufacturer or the packer, register such shorter address.

(3) Where a shorter address is registered by the Director or the Controller, it shall be lawful for the manufacturer or packer to state such shorter address on the label of each commodity pre-packed by him or it.

29. Registration of manufacturers and packers, etc.- (1) The Director or the Controller shall enter in a register, to be maintained by him for the purpose, the name and complete address of each manufacturer or packer by whom application for such registration has been made to him under rule 27.

(2) The register referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be open to the inspection of the public without payment of any fee.

CHAPTER VII GENERAL

30. Compilation of lists of manufacturers or packers and their circulation. - The Director or the Controller shall compile a State-wise list of the manufacturers and packers registered by him under rule 29 and shall circulate such list to the Controller of the concerned State to enable the Controller to take, or cause to be taken, samples at the premises of the manufacturer or, where the manufacturer is not the packer, of the packer.

31. Compilation of lists of manufacturers or packers and their circulation. - The Director/ Controller shall compile a State-wise list of the manufacturers and packers registered by him under rule 30 and shall circulate such list to the Controller of the concerned State to enable the Controller to take, or cause to be taken, samples at the premises of the manufacturer or, where the manufacturer is not the packer, of the packer.

32. (1) Any advertisement mentioning the retail sale price of the pre-packaged commodity shall contain a declaration as to the net quantity or number of the commodity contained in the package.

(2) The font size of the net quantity in the advertisement shall be same as that of retail sale price.

33. Penalty for contravention of Rules - (1) Whoever contravenes the provisions of rules 27 to 32, he shall be punished with fine of four thousand rupees.

(2) Whoever contravenes any other provision of these rules, for the contravention of which no punishment has been provided either in the Act or in the rules he shall be punished with fine of two thousand rupees.

34. Power to relax- The Central Government may, after ascertaining the genuineness of the compounding of a case or Court decision stated in the application, permit a manufacturer or packer to pack for sale the packages for a reasonable period by relaxing one or more provision of these Rules with such corrective measures as may be specified

35. Repeal and savings.- (1) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 are hereby repealed.

Provided that such repeal shall not affect:

- (a) the previous operations of the said rules or anything done or omitted to be done or suffered therein; or
- (b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the said rules; or
- (c) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against the said rules; or
- (d) any investigation, legal proceedings or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid.

And any such investigation, legal proceedings or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if the said rules had not been rescinded.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal anything done or any action taken or purported to have been done or taken including approval of letter, exemption granted, fees collected, any adjudication, enquiry or investigation commenced, license and registration of manufacturers, dealers, importers of pre-packaged commodities, or show cause notice, decision, determination, approval, authorisation issued, given or done under the said rules shall if in force at the commencement of the said rules continue to be in force and have effect as if issued, given or done under the corresponding provisions of these rules.

(3) The provisions of these rules shall apply to any application made to the Central Government or as the case may be the State Government under the said rules for licence, registration of manufacturers, importers, dealers of pre-packaged commodities pending at the commencement of these rules and to any proceedings consequent thereon and to any registration granted in pursuance thereof.

(4) Any legal proceeding pending in any court under the said rules at the commencement of these rules may be continued in that court as if these rules had not been framed.

(5) Any appeal preferred to the Central Government or as the case may be the State Government under the said rules and pending shall be deemed to have been made under the corresponding provisions of these rules.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE
[See Rule 2(e)]

1. Maximum permissible errors on net quantity declared by weight or volume.-

(1) The maximum permissible error, in excess or in deficiency, in the net quantity by weight or volume of any commodity shall be as specified in Table I below:-

TABLE-I
Maximum permissible errors on net quantities declared by weight or by volume

Sr. No.	Declared quantity g or ml	Maximum permissible error in excess or in deficiency	
		As percentage of declared quantity	g or ml
(i)	up to 50	9	-
(ii)	50 to 100	-	4.5
(iii)	100 to 200	4.5	-
(iv)	200 to 300	-	9
(v)	300 to 500	3	-
(vi)	500 to 1000	-	15
(vii)	1000 to 10000	1.5	-
(viii)	10000 to 15000	-	150
(ix)	More than 15000	1.0	-

(2) The maximum permissible error specified as percentage shall be rounded off to the nearest one-tenth of a g or ml, for a declared quantities less than or equal to 1000 g or ml and to the next whole g or ml for declared quantities above 1000 g or ml.

2. The maximum permissible errors on net quantity declared by length, area or number. - (1) The maximum permissible error, in excess or in deficiency, in the net quantity declared in terms of length, area or number of any commodity not specified in the First Schedule shall be as specified in Table II below:-

TABLE -II
The maximum permissible errors on net quantities declared by length, area or number

Sr. No.	Quantity Declared	Maximum permissible error in excess or in deficiency
(i)	in units of length	2% of declared quantity up to 10 metre and thereafter 1% of declared quantity.
(ii)	in units of area	4% of declared quantity up to 10 sq. metre and thereafter 1% of declared quantity.
(iii)	by number	2% of declared quantity.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

(See rule 5)

Commodities to be packed in specified quantities

The following commodities shall be packed in such quantities by weight, measure or number as are specified in the corresponding entries against them.

Sr. No.	Commodities	Quantities in which to be packed
1.	2.	3.
1.	Baby food	100g, 200g, 300g, 400g, 500g, 600g, 700 g, 800 g, 900g, 1 kg, 2kg, 5 kg and 10 kg.
2.	Weaning food.	100g, 200g, 300g, 400g, 500g, 600g, 700g, 800g, 900g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg and 10 kg.
3.	Biscuits	25g, 50g, 75g, 100g, 150g, 200g, 250g, 300g and thereafter in multiples of 100g up to 1 kg.
4.	Bread including brown bread but excluding bun.	100g and there after in of multiples 100g.
5.	Un-canned packages of butter and margarine	25 g, 50 g, 100 g, 200 g, 500 g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg, and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg.
6.	Cereals and Pulses	100g, 200g, 500g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg and thereafter multiples of 5 kg
7.	Coffee	25g, 50g, 100g, 200g, 250g, 500g, 1kg and thereafter in multiples of 1kg.
8.	Tea	25g, 50g, 100g, 125g 250g, 500g, 1kg and thereafter in multiples of 1kg.
9.	Materials which may be constituted or reconstituted as beverages.	25 g, 50 g, 100 g, 200 g, 500 g, 1 kg and thereafter in multiples of 1 kg.
10	Edible Oils Vanaspati, ghee, butter oil	50 g, 100 g, 200 g, 500 g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 5 kg and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg If net quantity is declared by volume the same number in milliliters or liters, as the case may be. If the net quantity is declared by volume, then the equivalent quantity in terms of mass to be declared in brackets in same size of letters/ numerals
11.	Milk Powder.	Below 50g no restriction, 50 g, 100g, 200g, 500 g, 1 kg and thereafter in multiples of 500 g.
12.	Non-soapy detergents (powder)	Below 50 g no restriction, 50g, 100g, 200g, 500g, 700g, 1kg, 1.5 kg, 2 kg and thereafter, in multiples of 1 kg.
13.	Rice(powdered), flour, atta, rawa and suji.	100g, 200g, 500g, 1kg, 2kg, 5 kg and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg.
14.	Salt	Below 50g in multiples of 10g, 50g, 100g, 200g, 500g, 750g, 1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg and thereafter in multiples of 5 kg.

Sr. No.	Commodities	Quantities in which to be packed
1.	2.	3.
15.	Soaps	
	(a) Laundry Soap	50g, 75g, 100g, and thereafter in multiples of 50g.
	(b) Non-soapy detergent cakes/ bars.	50g, 75g, 100g, 125g, 150g, 200g, 250g, 300g and thereafter in multiples of 100g
	(c) Toilet Soap including all kinds of bath soap (cakes).	25g, 50g, 75g, 100g, 125g, 150g and thereafter in multiples of 50g.
16.	Aerated soft drinks, non-alcoholic beverages.	65 ml (fruit based drinks only), 100 ml, 125ml(fruit based drinks only), 150 ml, 200 ml, 250 ml, 300 ml, 330ml(in cans only), 500 ml, 750 ml, 1 litre, 1.5 litre, 2 litre, 3 litre, 4 litre and 5 litre.
17.	Mineral water and drinking water	100 ml, 150 ml, 200 ml, 250 ml, 300 ml, 500 ml, 750 ml, 1 litre, 1.5 litre, 2 litre, 3 litre, 4 litre and 5 litre.
18.	Cement in bags.	1 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg, 20 kg, 25 kg, 40 kg (for White cement only) and 50 kg.
19.	Paint varnish etc.	
	(a) Paint (other than paste paint or solid paint) varnish, varnish stains, enamels.	50 ml, 100 ml, 200 ml, 500 ml, 1 litre, 2 litre, 3 litre, 4 litre, 5 litre and thereafter in multiples of 5 litre.
	(b) Paste paint and solid paint	500g, 1 kg, 1.5 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg, 5 kg, 7kg and thereafter multiple of 5 kg.
	(c) Base paint:	450 ml, 500 ml, 900 ml, 925 ml, 950 ml, 975 ml, 1 litre, 3.6 litre, 3.7 litre, 3.8 litre, 3.9 litre and 4 litre and no restriction above 4 litre.'

**THE THIRD SCHEDULE
(See Rule 11(4))**

Declaration of quantity in relation to commodities (sold by weight or volume) which may be qualified by the words "When packed"

Sr. No.	Name of commodity
1.	All kinds of Soaps
2.	Lotions
3.	Cream (other than cream of milk)

THE FOURTH SCHEDULE
(See Rule 12(2))
Exceptions referred to in Rule 12(2)

1. The following commodities in packaged form may be sold by weight, measure or number as shown against the commodity:-

TABLE

Sr. No.	Commodity	Whether declaration to be expressed in terms of weight, measures or number or two or more of them
1.	2.	3.
1.	Aerosol Products	Weight
2.	Acids in liquid form	Weight or volume
3.	Compressed or liquefied gas (but not liquefied petroleum gas)	Weight and equivalent volume at stated temperature and pressure
4.	Curd	Weight
5.	Electric Cables	Length or weight
6.	Electric wire	Length or weight
7.	Fencing wire	Number or weight
8.	Fruits, all kinds	Number or weight
9.	Furnace oil	Weight or volume
10.	Non edible vegetable oil	Weight or volume
11.	Edible oil, Vanaspati ghee and butter oil	Weight or volume
12.	Heavy residual fuel oil	Weight
13.	Industrial diesel fuel	Volume
14.	Honey, malt-extract, golden syrup treacle	Weight
15.	Ice cream and other similar frozen products	Volume
16.	Liquid chemicals	Weight or volume
17.	Liquefied petroleum gas	Weight
18.	Nails, wood screws	Number or weight
19.	Paints other than paste paint or solid paint) Varnish varnish stains, enamels	Volume
20.	Paste paint, solid paint	Weight
21.	Rasgulla, Gulabjamun and other sweet preparations	Weight
22.	Ready-made garments	Number
23.	Sauces, all kinds	Weight
24.	Tyres and tubes	Number
25.	Yarn	Weight or length of yarn.
26.	Cosmetics including creams, shampoo, lotions and perfumes	Weight or measure

THE FIFTH SCHEDULE
(See Rule 19)
Manner of Selection of Sample Packages

1. For determination of the net quantity for any commodity contained in a package, the sample size shall be such as is specified in the corresponding entry column 2 of the Table below against the lot size specified in Column 1 of the said Table.

Lot Size	Sample Size
(1)	(2)
Less than 4000	32
More than 4000	80

2. The sample shall be selected at random in accordance with the manner specified in paragraphs 3 and 4.
3. Where, for the determination of the net quantity of any commodity contained in a package it is necessary to take samples of packages stored by the manufacture or packer in a ware house, go-down or at any other place, the sample shall be selected at random, from ever lot of packages and shall be picked out from the top, bottom, center, right, left, front and rear of the stocks so that the samples may adequately represent the packages in the lot.
4. Where, for the determination of the net quantity of any commodity contained in a package it is necessary to take samples form the place where the package is being filled such samples shall be selected from among the package which have already been filled, or in the alternatively, the requisite number of empty containers may be taken over and each of them shall be adequately marked for proper identification and the tare weight of each container shall be accurately noted and thereafter the marked containers shall be introduced at random in the packing process so that, after the packages are filled in may be possible to determine the net quantity

Explanation: In this schedule 'Sample size' means the umber of packages to be selected as sample.

THE SIXTH SCHEDULE
(See Rule 19)

Determination of the Net Quantity of Commodities in Packages

Part-I – Equipment

1. Equipments required- (1) The Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer authorized by or under the Act, to determine the net quantity; of commodity contained in any package, shall be provided by the concerned Government with adequate equipments and facilities to carry out his work to the required degree of accuracy in an Expedient and efficient manner.

(2) The equipments, referred to in sub-paragraph (1), shall ordinarily consist of working standard weights and balances, or any other weight or measure declared by the Director to be suitable for determining the net quantity contained in the concerned package.

(3) The Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall, before determining the net quantity contained in any package, ensure that the working standards and other equipments are functioning properly.

2. Working standards to be ordinarily used.- (1) Ordinarily, working standards and other weights and measures, duly verified shall be used for determining the net quantities contained in packages and the errors, if any, in relation to the net quantity declared on the package.

Provided that, where it is necessary to use the weights and measures, owned or controlled by the manufacturer, packer or wholesale dealer as the case may be such weights and measures, shall be used unless the maximum permissible error of such weights and measures is twenty per cent or less of the maximum error permitted in relation to the net quantity of the commodity contained in the packages.

(2) It shall be the duty of every manufacturer, packer or wholesale dealer to render such assistance the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer as the Director or other authorized person may require in order carrying out his duties expeditiously and efficiently.

(3) Where any weight, measure or other equipment, owned or controlled by the manufacturer, packer or wholesale dealer is used by the Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer for the determination of the net quantity contained in any package, such weight, measure or other equipment shall not be released by the Director or other authorized person until his work is completed.

Part-II
Instructions with regard to the determination of quantity and error at manufacturer's or packer's premises.

3. (1) If empty tare packages are available, one such package shall be taken and tare package weight determined. If the tare package weight is equal to or less than three-tenths of the maximum permissible error for the concerned commodity of that quantity, it shall be assumed that the tare package weight so determined is valid for all the other packages in the sample, and the sample packages shall then be weighed for gross weight, and thereafter the net weight of commodity contained in each package shall be obtained by subtracting the tare package weight from the gross package weight. If the tare package weight so determined is more than three tenths of the maximum permissible error in relation to the commodity for that quantity, weight of four emptier tare packages shall be determined. If the difference between the maximum tare package weight and the minimum tare package weight of the five samples is equal to or less than four tenths of the maximum permissible error allowed for that commodity for that quantity, the tare weight of the package shall be taken as equal to the average of the five tare package weights. The gross weight of the package in the sample shall then be determined and the average tare package weight shall be subtracted from the gross package weight to obtain the net contents of the commodity in each package, in the sample. However, when the difference in the five individual tare weights of the packages exceeds the limit of four tenths of the maximum permissible error specified above, the procedure specified in sub-paragraph (4) or sub-paragraph (5), as the case may be, shall be adopted for determining the net quantity of individual packages.

(2) In the absence of empty tare packages, one package from the sample shall be opened and the net weight of the commodity and the tare weight of the package determined. If the tare weight of the package is equal to or less than three-tenth of the maximum permissible error for that concerned commodity of that quantity, it shall be assumed that the tare weight of one package so determined is valid for all the other packages in the sample, and the remaining packages shall then be weighed for gross weight, and thereafter the net weight of commodity contained in each package shall be obtained by subtracting the tare weight from the gross weight.

(3) If the tare weight of the package specified in sub-paragraph (2) is more than three-tenths of the maximum permissible error in relation to that commodity, four more packages in the samples shall be opened and the net weight of the commodity in each package as well as the tare weight of each package shall be determined. If the difference between the maximum tare weight and the minimum tare weight of five samples is equal to or less than four-tenths of the maximum permissible error for that commodity of that quantity, the tare weight of the package shall be taken as equal to the arithmetic mean of the five tare weights. The gross weight of the packages in the sample shall then be determined to the requisite accuracy and the average tare weight of the contained shall be subtracted from the gross weight to obtain the net contents of the commodity in each package in the sample.

(4) Where it is found on examining the first package, as described in sub-paragraph (2) that the tare weight of the container exceeds the limits specified in sub-paragraph (2) and sub-paragraph (3) and the determination of net contents, cannot be carried out without opening the remaining packages, or it is not, possible to use the procedure to use the procedure described in sub-paragraph (5) the size of the sample to be examined shall be restricted to that indicated in column (2) , in accordance with the batch indicated

in column(1) of Table of the Ninth Schedule and the determination of net quantity shall be carried out by opening all the packages in the sample.

(5) Where it is likely that the process of determination of the actual net quantity may be destructive and it is possible to feed empty package into the packing process without affecting the results, the following procedure shall be used:

(a) the number of empty packages, depending upon the size of the batch, in accordance with columns (1) and (2) of Table of the Fifth Schedule shall be selected;

(b) the empty package shall be marked suitably to identify them from the other packages;

(c) the weight of each empty package, with its other parts which are to be fitted on it after it is filled shall be determined and the weight suitably recorded on the empty package and also on the Form specified in the Seventh Schedule;

(d) the empty package shall then be filled by introducing them in a random manner in the packing process, and such introduction shall be adequately spread over the duration in accordance with which the size of the batch is determined;

(e) the marked packages shall be taken out after completion of the filling and sealing operations and each such filled package shall be weighed again to the requisite accuracy;

(f) the net quantity shall be obtained by deducting the tare weight determined in accordance with clause (c) from the gross weight.

(6) The Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall enter results of this examination of gross weight, net weight and tare weight in the Form specified in the Eleventh Schedule along with such other observation as he may wish to make on the basis of his examination.

4. Determination of liquid contents by volume.-(1) If the specific gravity of the liquid commodity filled in packages remains sufficiently constant for a batch and it is possible to determine accurately its specific gravity the method of determination of net contents by weight, described in paragraph 3 may be used.

(2) If the method described in sub-paragraph (1) is not feasible the containers shall be opened and the contents of each package poured out carefully into the appropriate volume measure.

(3) The reading of the actual net volume of the commodity in every package shall be noted carefully and recorded in the Form specified in the Seventh Schedule.

5. Verification of length of commodities.-(1) The sample shall be selected in the manner specified in the Fifth Schedule.

(2) If it is not possible to measure the dimensions without opening the package, the package shall be opened.

(3) The length of the commodity shall be measured by means of a calibrated steel tape of suitable length.

(4) If the actual length of the commodity is so great that it is not possible to measure it with the tape measure and a suitable length measuring instrument is available on the premises, that instrument shall be used, after duly calibrating it by suitable means, with the steel tape serving as a working standard of length.

(5) The reading of the actual length of the commodity in every package shall be noted carefully and recorded in the Form specified in the Seventh Schedule.

6. Verification of commodities packed by number.- The Director, Controller or any Legal Metrology Officer shall take packages from the sample drawn by him in the manner specified in the Fifth Schedule and determine the extent of error, by actual counting in each such package and may, for that purpose open all packages.

7. Checking of other declarations.-(1) The declarations made on the package or on the label affixed thereto, shall be examined with a view to ascertaining whether such declarations conform to these rules and may be ensured either at the factory level or at the depot of the factory .

(2) The additional declarations made on the package or on the label affixed thereto in respect of item (g) and (h) of sub-rule (1) of rule 6 shall also be examined to ascertain whether they are adequate.

**THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE
Form A
Weight Checking – Data Sheet**

A Particulars of Package		Name of Manufacturer/ Packer			
		Address	Price	Month	Year
B Commodity Classification		Lot Size: _____ Sample Size: _____ Schedule First/ Second Class A/ B Maximum permissible error in percentage			
C		Sample Remarks No.	Gross Weight	Tare Weight	Net Weight/ error
Weight Checking Data		1 200			
D Results		Declared Wt. Avg. Wt.			
E GENERAL COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT AND THE RULES MADE THEREUNDER					
F of manufacturer/ manufacturer or		Signature and name of the authorized person		Signature and name packer authorized by any competent witness	
Designation: Name: Time:		Place:			

Note: If the data sheet runs into more pages than one, the each continuation sheet shall bear the signatures specified in Part F.

Form B
Volume/ Length Checking – Data Sheet

A Particulars of Package		Name of Manufacturer/ Packer			
		Address	Price	Month	Year
B Commodity Classification		Lot Size: Size: Schedule First/ Second Class A/ B Maximum permissible error in percentage			Sample
C		Sample Remarks No.	Gross Weight	Tare Weight	Net Weight/ error
Volume/ Length Checking Data		1 200			
D Results		Declared Volume/ Length Length			Avg. Volume/ Length
E GENERAL COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT AND THE RULES MADE THEREUNDER					
F manufacturer/ manufacturer or witness		Signature and name of the authorized person		Signature and name of packer authorized by any competent	
		Designation: Name: Time:		Place:	

Note: If the data sheet runs into more pages than one, the each continuation sheet shall bear the signatures specified in Part F.

[F.No.WM-9(6)/2010]
RAKESH KACKER, Addl. Secretary

The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 (Act 1 of 2010) repeals and replaces the Standard of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Standards of weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985. The central government has appointed the date 01.04.2011 from which the provisions of the Act will come into force.

Standard Weights, Measures and Numerals

Using, keeping for use, manufacturing or importing any non-standard weight, measure or numeral is prohibited. **[Sections 8(3) and 8(4) read with section 25 and 27]**

To be a standard weight or measure,

1. It should use only standard units
2. It should conform to the physical characteristics, configuration, construction details, materials, equipment, performance and tolerance as per provisions of the LM (General) Rules, 2011.
3. It should be verified and also re-verified periodically as per schedule.

[Section 7 and 8]

Non-standard units are not permitted in any document, quotation, invoice, packages and in advertisements. **[Section 11 read with penal provision of section 29]**

Registration for importing/manufacturing/packing of packaged commodities

Every importer, manufacturer or packer of packaged commodities will require registration under **Rule 27 of the LM (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011**. The registration may be made with the Director of Legal Metrology of the Central government or the Controller of Legal metrology of the State where the importing or packing is done. Wherever the registration is made, it is valid for the entire country for

Is the provision of Rule 27 valid?

Section 18(1) from which the Packaged Commodities Rules have originated, does not require registration as a packer or importer of packaged commodities. Section 52(2)(j) and (q), under which the Rules were framed, also do not mention anything regarding Registration. It appears that framing of the Rule 27 is not supported by any provision of the Act.

Items Exempted from the provisions of the Packaged Commodities Rules. [Rule 26]

Packages containing

- the net weight or measure of the commodity in 10 g or ten ml or less, if sold by weight or measure.
- fast food items packed by restaurant/hotel
- Scheduled and non-scheduled formulations covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995
- Agricultural farm produces in packages of above 50 kg

Registration under Rule 27

Every manufacturer or packer or importer of packaged commodities require Registration under the Rule 27 within 90 days of starting business. The application for Registration can be made in plain paper with following particulars only -

1. Name and full address of the Applicant
2. Complete address of the premise where manufacture/prepack/import is made with name of items dealt there.
3. List of commodities manufactured/pre-packed-or imported by the applicant.

A registration made with the Director or the Controller of any State is valid throughout the country for items and for factories / premises mentioned in the Registration Certificate. Once registration is made, additions and alterations can be made by filing an application before the same authority. The fee payable for registration is Rs. 500.00 and for addition or alteration Rs. 100.00 only. The Director or the Controller will inform in whose favour the Demand Draft shall be drawn.

Why unnecessary harassment?

States are permitted to register but failure to obtain registration is not an offence under the Act but only under the Rule 32. Violation of this provision is punishable under Section 52(3) which cannot be enforced by a State Government. Then, why they send notices for non-registration? Registration is not a license. There is no prescribed format for application. It can be made in plain paper by submitting the required information as required under Rule 27. Then why some states prescribes, without any legal sanction, formats seeking additional information like trade license, income-tax and VAT clearance, ownership of the premises and anything they can conceive of.

MODEL APPLICATION FORM FOR REGISTRATION AS MANUFACTURER / PACKER / IMPORTER IS GIVEN AS UNDER:

Address & Telephone Numbers of Legal Metrology Officers.

1. Controller of Legal Metrology (Weights & Measures)

Government of Uttar Pradesh,
7, Walaquad Road, Lucknow – 1 (Uttar Pradesh)
Ph: 0522-2628063

2. Mr. B.N. Dixit

Director.
Deptt. of Consumer Affairs,
Room No.461-A, Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110 001.
Tel. No. 23389489 Fax No. 23385322

3. Mr. Raj Kumar

Dy. Director,
Deptt. of Consumer Affairs,
Room No.541-A Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110 001
Tel. No. 23386194 Fax No. 23385322

4. Mr. Ashutosh Agarwal,

Asstt. Director
Deptt. of Consumer Affairs,
Room No.541-A Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110 001.
Tel. No. 23386194 .

5. Mr. Ansul Singh, Asstt. Director,

Deptt. of Consumer Affairs,
Room No.541-A Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110 001
Tel. No. 23386194

**MODEL APPLICATION FORM FOR REGISTRATION AS
MANUFACTURER / PACKER / IMPORTER**

To
The Director of Legal Metrology,
Government of India.

OR

The Controller of Legal Metrology.

----- (name of the State/UT)

Subject: Registration of Manufacturer / Packer / Importer under Rule 27 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

Sir,

I/We hereby apply for registration as a packer and furnish the required information for your consideration.

1. Name of the Applicant (Firm)
2. Complete Address of the Registered Office.
3. Name(s) and Address(es) of the Proprietor / Partners / Directors
4. Complete address of the premises at which the pre-packing or import is made by the applicant
5. Name(s) of the Commodity / Commodities to be pre-packed or imported

DECLARATION

I/We hereby declare that the commodity in packaged form manufactured / packed / imported by us shall comply with the requirements of provisions of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011

Signature of the Applicant
with Office Seal.

Enclosures:

1. Demand Draft of Rs. 500.00 {To be ascertained in whose favour the DD will be drawn} (Write the name of the Company on the back of the Demand Draft for identification and safety)
2. Photocopy of Trade License.
3. Sample copy of label to be used.
4. Duplicate copy of this application form duly filled up.