

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE **METROLOGY ACT** No.18 OF 2004



*The Metrology Act No. 18 of 2004  
is now law in Trinidad and Tobago, effective 1st May, 2015.  
This legislation provides the framework for the new national measurement system in  
Trinidad and Tobago and gives the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)  
the responsibility for its implementation.*



# METROLOGY ACT

No.18 of 2004

## 1. *What is Metrology?*

Metrology is the science of measurement. It deals with measurement theory; units of measurement; measurement processes, procedures and methods and the characteristics of measuring devices.

## 2. *What is the Metrology Act No. 18 of 2004?*

This is the legislation that governs Weights and Measures in Trinidad and Tobago. It became Law on May 1st 2015 and replaces the Weights and Measures Ordinance. It also gives effect to the International System of Units (SI).

## 3. *What is the SI system of Units?*

The SI system of Units is the modern metric system of measurement. It consists of seven base units – metre, kilogramme, second, kelvin, mole, ampere and candela.

## 4. *How does the Metrology Act affect me?*

The Metrology Act is important for many reasons. For example, it can help with the standardisation of the national



# METROLOGY ACT

No.18 of 2004

measurement system, provide control of measurements and measuring devices, improve public safety, protect the environment and ensure fair trade.

## 5. *Who is responsible for the administration of the Metrology Act?*

The Metrology Act states that the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) shall appoint a Chief Inspector of Metrology and Inspectors of Metrology for its proper administration. These Inspectors and supporting staff constitute the Legal Metrology Inspectorate (LMI).

## 6. *What are some of the powers granted to Inspectors of Metrology by the Metrology Act?*

Powers of Inspectors include but are not limited to:

- *examining measuring devices used in trade (i.e. for commercial transactions) and documents and goods subject to the control of the Act.*
- *applying appropriate stamps to measuring devices used in trade (marks applied as evidence that a measuring device is*



# METROLOGY ACT

No.18 of 2004

*in conformity or non-conformity with the Regulations).*

- *issuing and cancelling certificates and stamps for measuring devices used in trade.*
- *directing a person to comply with the requirements of the Act.*
- *seizing and detaining measuring devices or goods used in trade that contravene the Act but only when a warrant issued by a Magistrate is obtained.*

## 7. *What are some of the types of measuring devices used in trade that are governed by the Metrology Act?*

Some of these devices include:

- **market scales**
- **fuel dispensers (gas station pumps)**
- **supermarket scales**
- **rulers and tapes**
- **electricity meters**
- **water meters**



# METROLOGY ACT

No.18 of 2004

A list of prescribed measuring devices can be found in Schedule 1 of the Metrology Regulations, 2015.

8. *Does the Metrology Act require that the pattern or design of a measuring device for use in trade is approved to ensure that it is fit for its purpose?*

Yes, this is known as Pattern Approval. According to the Act, the Bureau of Standards may examine the patterns of measuring devices to certify whether or not they comply with the appropriate Regulations. Measuring devices manufactured or imported into the country for use in trade must be examined and approved before the devices are made available for sale.

9. *Do I need to be certified if I am involved in selling, manufacturing, importing, exporting, repairing or adjusting prescribed measuring devices that are used in connection with trade?*

Yes, that is correct. According to the Metrology Act, persons involved in such activities shall hold a certificate from the Bureau of Standards certifying their fitness to carry on such



# METROLOGY ACT

No.18 of 2004

a business. Additionally, the Act mandates that the Bureau maintains and publishes annually a register of the names of such persons.

**10. *Does the Metrology Act contain any provisions to ensure that pre-packaged goods (e.g. a pack of potato chips, a box of cereal or a bag of laundry detergent) have the correct amount or quantity?***

Yes it does. The Metrology Act and the Metrology (Quantities of Goods) Regulations, 2015 cater for the monitoring of pre-packaged goods to ensure accurate quantities are contained in these packages.

**11. *What are the offences outlined in the Metrology Act?***

***Some of the offences include:***

- *obstructing an Inspector from carrying out his or her duties.*
- *using a measuring device for trade without the appropriate stamp.*
- *using a measuring device that has been altered without permission after being stamped.*



# METROLOGY ACT

No.18 of 2004

- *removing a stamp from an inspected device.*
- *selling quantities less than specified (short selling).*

## ***12. Are there any penalties for persons or organisations that violate the Metrology Act?***

Yes, penalties for offences are specified in the Act. Depending on the nature of the offence and the type of conviction, you can be fined and/or imprisoned. In general, fines can range from \$2,000 to \$100,000 and imprisonment from 6 months to 2 years.

## ***13. Where can I get further information on the Metrology Act?***

You can download a copy of the Metrology Act No.18 of 2004 and its Regulations from the TTBS' website by visiting [www.ttbs.org.tt](http://www.ttbs.org.tt). You can also contact the LMI by E-mail at: **LMI@ttbs.org.tt** or by calling **(868) 750-0686**.



**Legal Metrology Inspectorate  
Metrology Division**



1-2 Century Drive,  
Trincity Industrial Estate, Macoya, Tunapuna,  
Trinidad and Tobago, W.I.

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 467, Port of Spain,  
Trinidad and Tobago, W.I.

Tel:

(868) 662-TTBS (8827), 663-4835-6, Ext. 110  
or (868) 750-0686

Fax: 663-4335

Email: [LMI@ttbs.org.tt](mailto:LMI@ttbs.org.tt)

Website: [www.ttbs.org.tt](http://www.ttbs.org.tt)