



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
BUREAU OF STANDARDS

Pattern Approval



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.*

◆ What is Metrology?

Metrology is the science of measurement which includes aspects such as measurement units, measurement methods and measuring devices. It is important in many aspects of our daily lives, as in its absence, you cannot design, test, manufacture, buy or sell anything safely or reliably.

◆ What is a Pattern?

A pattern refers to the characteristics of a design and operation of a measuring device that uniquely defines the device and its measurement characteristics.

◆ What is Pattern Approval?

Pattern Approval is the process whereby an impartial body examines the pattern (design) of a device prototype against a set of national or international metrological specifications and a Certificate of Pattern Approval is issued.

In Trinidad and Tobago, Pattern Approval of devices is subject to rigorous tests prescribed under the Metrology Regulations, 2015.

Section 21(d) of the Metrology Act No.18 of 2004 (the legislation that governs Weights and Measures in Trinidad and Tobago) and the Metrology Regulations, 2015 have authorised the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) to examine and approve all patterns of measuring devices used for trade.

To fulfil this mandate, all measuring devices manufactured in or imported into the country, must undergo pattern approval before these devices are made available for sale.

◆ Who is responsible for Pattern Approval in Trinidad and Tobago?

The TTBS is the body responsible for Pattern Approval as stipulated by the Metrology Act No.18 of 2004 and the Metrology Regulations, 2015.

◆ What is the role of the TTBS in Pattern Approval?

The main roles include:

- Examining and approving all patterns of measuring devices used for trade.

All measuring devices manufactured in or imported into Trinidad and Tobago must undergo pattern approval before these devices can be sold.

Some examples are:

- Jewellery balances
 - Computing scales
 - Non computing bench scales
 - Floor scales
 - Belt-conveyor scales
 - Weighbridges
 - Scales connected to an electronic cash register
- Examining and approving measuring devices impacting on health and safety of citizens and the environment.

Examples of which are:

- Energy Meters
- Speed Detectors
- Evidential Breath Analysers
- Exhaust Emission Meters

◆ Who needs Pattern Approval?

Pattern Approval applies to businesses that manufacture and/or import measuring devices used for trade.

◆ Why is Pattern Approval important?

Pattern Approval is important because it determines whether a measuring device is capable of retaining its calibration over a range of environmental and operating conditions and to ensure that it is not capable of facilitating fraud.

It also certifies if the measuring device is suitable for use in connection with any class or classes of trade.

◆ What is the process for applying for Pattern Approval?

An importer or manufacturer of a measuring device shall submit an application for Pattern Approval on a form prescribed and approved by the Bureau.

The application shall be accompanied by:

- proof of approval of the pattern by a recognized national or international metrology body
 - principal technical drawings
 - all necessary specifications and other information that would enable adequate assessment
 - a model of the measuring device
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- Payment receipt of the fee of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500.00)

The Bureau may exempt an importer or manufacturer of a measuring device from the deposit of a model after consideration of the application.

PATTERN APPROVAL PROCESS



Fill out the appropriate form which can be found on the website of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (www.ttbs.org.tt)



- Completed Application Form
- Principal drawings and specifications
- Promotional material, bulletins, brochures, instructions
- Test data relating to the actual service performance of the device
- Payment receipt for pattern approval



Any additional documents which may be required for the evaluation of the Pattern Approval application

◆ What are the Penalties for NOT having a device pattern approved?

Under the Metrology Act, a person found guilty of not conforming to the Act is liable to be fined a sum of two thousand dollars (\$2000.00) and in the case of a subsequent offence to a fine of four thousand dollars (\$4000.00). Furthermore a director, secretary and other executives of a company can be fined fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), and in the case of a corporate body, fines of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) can be imposed.



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Metrology Division

Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards
1-2 Century Drive, Trincity Industrial Estate,
Macoia, Tunapuna, Trinidad, W.I.

TEL.: (868) 662-TTBS (8827), 3132, Ext. 2301
612-0279

EMAIL: metrology@ttbs.org.tt

WEBSITE : www.ttbs.org.tt