COUNTRY INFORMATION OF WELMEC MEMBERS

THE NETHERLANDS

1. Organizational Structure and Background

The capital is Amsterdam, but the seat of government is in The Hague.

In 1886, consumer protection became the responsibility of the Central Government having previously been carried out at a local level.

The Netherlands has a long history of legal metrology, dating back to the Napoleonic occupation in 1804. The Dutch were one of the first to introduce the metric system in 1820. In 1937 initial verification became obligatory and in 1969 mandatory type approval was introduced.

The responsibility for legislation in metrology lies with the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act and Market Surveillance is carried out by the Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure (Rijksinspectie Digitale Infrastructuur (RDI)). The RDI is part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The maintenance of a standards infrastructure and the provision of a primary calibration service for high-quality industrial laboratories is the responsibility of VSL B.V. (Van Swinden Laboratory).

Conformity assessment procedures can be carried out by Notified Bodies. Several Notified Bodies are appointed in the field of the Measuring Instruments Directive and the Directive on Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments. An overview of Notified Bodies and their field of expertise can be found in the Nando database.

With respect to nationally regulated measuring instruments, not covered by the MID or NAWI-directive, testing institutes (often Notified Bodies for other measuring instruments) have been appointed to carry out the conformity assessment procedure.

The Dutch Accreditation Board (Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA)) for calibration laboratories, test laboratories and inspection bodies, grants certificates in these fields and cooperates within European Accreditation (EA) on behalf of the Netherlands.

2. Equipment Subject to National Controls with verification periods

The NAWI directive was implemented in the Dutch Metrology Act in 1993 and the MID in 2006. The use of certified exhaust gas analysers is regulated in the “Regeling voertuigen” and the use of certified taximeters is regulated in the “Besluit Personenvervoer 2000” both under the responsibility of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

However, the Netherlands have used the optionality clause in the MID for a number of measuring instruments, such as water meters and material measures. These instruments do not need to bear the metrology markings but if they do they have to fulfil the requirements of the MID.

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The Metrology Act of the Netherlands also includes measuring instruments not covered by the NAWI-directive or MID. Those instruments are subject to a national conformity assessment procedure before placed on the market or into use.

The following instruments need a conformity assessment procedure before they are put into use if they are used for an indicated measuring task:

MID

- Gas meters (Annex IV/MI-002)
- Volume conversion devices (Annex IV/MI-002)
- Active electrical energy meters (Annex V/MI-003)
- Thermal energy meters (Annex VI/MI-004)
- Measuring systems for continuous and dynamic measurement of quantities of liquids other than water (Annex VII/MI-005)
- Automatic weighing instruments (Annex VIII/MI-006)
- Taximeters (Annex IX/MI-007)
- Dimensional measuring instruments (Annex XI/MI-009)
- Exhaust gas analysers (Annex XII/MI-010)

NAWI Directive:

- Non-automatic weighing instruments, class I to IIII

Nationally regulated:

- Static flow meters
- Mass flow meters
- Liquid level gauges
- Discontinuous fuel meters
- CG (CNG and H2) dispensers
- Dynamic weighbridges

There is no mandatory re-verification period in the Netherlands for measuring instruments with an indicated measuring task, except for taximeters and exhaust gas analysers.

However, re-verification is mandatory in case of a repair or change that can influence the metrological characteristics of the measuring instrument or in case the securing provisions show evidence of an intervention, for example, if a seal is broken or an event counter has been incremented because of a change in type- or device-specific parameters.

Re-verification can be carried out by national appointed bodies under the Metrology Act, i.e. test institutes, repairers, maintenance companies.

The permissible errors in use are for most instruments larger than the maximum permissible error (MPE) at initial verification. An exception is for petrol pumps, where the MPE "in use" is the same as the MPE at initial verification.

Software download is allowed in the Netherlands without a re-verification provided that:

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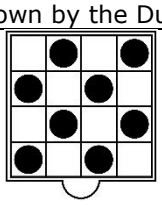
1. The downloaded software has been included in a Conformity Assessment Procedure Module B, H1 or G.
2. The EU-type or design examination certificate or in the case of a Module G the Certificate of Conformity of the Notified Body, should describe the download procedure and the security measures Security measures should indicate evidence of an intervention, i.e. all relevant data making a download or a download attempt traceable shall be recorded and secured. Relevant data includes date and time of download, identifier(s) of software, origin of transmission, success note.
3. After the installation of the downloaded software no calibration is necessary and the instrument specific parameters (type- and device specific parameters) remain unchanged. With respect to these parameters there will be no evidence of an intervention during a download and after installation of the software (In the unlikely event that the securing of the instrument specific. parameters is the same as for software download a reverification is necessary!)
4. After the installation of the downloaded software the measuring instrument complies with the essential requirements.
5. No hardware seals need to be broken.

3. Markings used in type approval and verifications

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">The conformity of a nationally autonomously controlled measuring instrument to be placed on the market or put into use is shown by the following marking.</td></tr>
<tr><td> 
</td><td>The mark of approval consisting of the last two digits of the year in which the approval took place is enclosed in a frame of the form shown here.

NB In practice, the mark is often combined with the mark of a designated body or person as shown below.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">The conformity of a regulated measuring instrument put into service that has undergone a reverification is shown by the Dutch metrological marking.</td></tr>
<tr><td> 

 </td><td>The mark of approval consisting of the last two digits of the year in which the approval took place enclosed in a frame of the form shown on the left. The mark of approval is combined with the mark of a designated body or person. This mark exists of a coded combination of dots placed in a frame as shown on the right.
The pattern may vary. The pattern in this example is related to NMi-Certin.

In case of a harmonised regulated measuring instrument, the markings are placed nearby the original metrological markings.</td></tr>
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