

LEGAL METROLOGY

Weights & Measures Compliance FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — India

1. What is Legal Metrology compliance?

Legal Metrology compliance covers the statutory requirements for weights, measures and measuring instruments used in regulated commercial activities, including applicable verification, stamping, licensing and documentation requirements.

2. What is the Legal Metrology Act, 2009?

The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 is the central legislation governing standards and enforcement relating to weights and measures in India. State Legal Metrology authorities administer many licensing, verification and enforcement activities.

3. Who needs Legal Metrology compliance?

Manufacturers, importers, dealers, repairers and users of specified weights and measures may have compliance obligations depending on the instrument, activity and applicable State or central requirements.

4. What is a Legal Metrology licence?

A Legal Metrology licence is an approval or licence issued by the competent authority for specified regulated activities involving weights and measures. The applicable licence type depends on the business activity.

5. What are weights and measures?

They include prescribed weighing instruments, measuring instruments, weights and measures used for commercial or other activities regulated under Legal Metrology law.

6. What is verification and stamping?

Verification is the official examination of a weight or measure to determine whether it conforms to applicable requirements. Where required, an official verification mark or stamp is applied.

7. Is a weighing machine required to be verified?

Commercial weighing instruments can be subject to verification and stamping requirements. The applicable interval and procedure depend on the instrument and jurisdiction.

8. What is Model Approval?

Model Approval is an approval process applicable to specified models of weights and measures before they are manufactured, imported or otherwise placed into regulated use, subject to the applicable rules and exemptions.

9. What documents are generally required?

Common documents may include business constitution documents, applicant identification, address and premises proof, equipment or model details, manufacturer/importer information, invoices or supporting technical documents, and prescribed declarations. The exact list varies by application.

10. What are LM-1 and LD-1?

LM-1 and LD-1 are form references used in Legal Metrology licensing/application materials in prescribed schedules and State procedures. Applicants should use the current form and instructions issued by the competent authority for their particular activity and State.

11. Can an importer require Legal Metrology compliance?

Yes. Importers of regulated weights and measures or packaged commodities can have specific obligations. Requirements depend on the product, activity, applicable rules and the State or central authority involved.

12. What is packaged commodities compliance?

Packaged commodities placed on the Indian market can be subject to mandatory declarations and other requirements under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, as applicable.

13. What is the role of a Legal Metrology consultant?

A consultant can assist with identifying applicable requirements, preparing application documents, coordinating submissions, reviewing declarations and supporting communication with the competent authority.

14. Does every State follow exactly the same procedure?

No. Although the central legal framework applies nationally, licensing, forms, fees, portals, verification procedures and administrative requirements can vary by State or competent authority.

15. What happens if a business is non-compliant?

Depending on the violation, authorities may take enforcement action under the applicable Legal Metrology legislation and rules. Businesses should verify current requirements and maintain valid approvals, verification records and prescribed declarations.

16. How can a business maintain compliance?

Maintain current licences and registrations, ensure instruments are verified and stamped when required, use approved models where applicable, maintain records, follow prescribed packaging declarations, and monitor changes to applicable Legal Metrology requirements.

Disclaimer: This FAQ is for general informational and compliance-support purposes. Legal Metrology requirements can vary according to the product, activity, instrument and jurisdiction. Always verify the current requirements, forms, fees and filing procedure with the competent Legal Metrology authority before submission.