

SUMMARY INFORMATION

for manufacturers of measuring instruments on the *OIML Certificate System and the Framework for a Mutual Acceptance Arrangement on OIML Type Evaluations*

The *OIML Certificate System for Measuring Instruments* was introduced in 1991 to facilitate harmonizing approval procedures and lowering costs associated with the international trade of measuring instruments subject to legal control. The *System* was established to take into account the general principles applicable to testing, certification, conformity assessment, accreditation and related subjects as laid down by other International Organizations such as ISO, IEC and ILAC, and included reference to the WTO in the context of the TBT Agreement.

The *System* provides the possibility for a manufacturer to obtain an OIML Certificate and a Test Report indicating that a given instrument type complies with the requirements of relevant OIML International Recommendations that are applicable within the *System*.

OIML Certificates and Test Reports may be provided by OIML Member States that have established OIML Issuing Authorities responsible for processing applications by manufacturers that request certification of their instrument types.

In 2003 the revised basic document - OIML B 3 (ex P 1) *OIML Certificate System for Measuring Instruments* was published to extend the scope of application to categories of measuring instruments including families of measuring instruments, modules, and families of modules. (The PDF file of B 3 may be downloaded from the OIML web site(www.oiml.org/download/docs/b/B003-e03.pdf)).

More detailed and up-to-date information (e.g. a database of registered Certificates and Issuing Authorities, a complete list of OIML Recommendations applicable within the System, etc.) is available on the OIML web site (www.oiml.org/certificates/authorities.html).

The OIML B 10-1 *Framework for a Mutual Acceptance Arrangement on OIML Type Evaluations* (Edition 2004) or "MAA", has been developed to further enhance the climate for mutual confidence and recognition of test results between OIML Members (Member States and Corresponding Members) by providing a means whereby national metrology services can more directly assess testing and certification capabilities through internationally accepted means, such as laboratory accreditation and peer review. The MAA is designed to do this in an efficient manner that minimizes the need for multiple independent bilateral arrangements between Members. By accommodating certain agreed upon additional requirements, beyond those in the relevant OIML Recommendation, the MAA is designed to potentially expand the customer base of testing laboratories, and provide instrument manufacturers the one-stop-testing they desire. While OIML Certificates and Test Reports will continue to be accepted by national metrology services on a voluntary basis, the MAA is intended to greatly strengthen the commitment of the signatories, i.e. the Participants (from OIML Member States) and Associates (from OIML Corresponding Members).

For detailed information on the MAA the PDF file of B 10-1 can be downloaded (www.oiml.org/download/docs/b/B010-e04.pdf) from the OIML web site.

For each category of measuring instruments applicable within the OIML Certificate System a Declaration of Mutual Confidence (DoMC) may be established if it is requested by at least two Issuing Authorities, preferably from different regions.

It is envisaged that the implementation of the MAA will be started in early 2005 with the establishment of the first two DoMCs for R 76 *Nonautomatic weighing instruments* and R 60 *Load cells*.