OIML-CS

Sixth OIML-CS Management Committee meeting

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Introduction

Due to the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sixth OIML-CS Management Committee (MC) Meeting was held as an online meeting on 24–25 March 2021. This built on the experience gained when holding the successful online MC meetings in May, June and July 2020.

Review Committee and Maintenance Group meetings

Unlike in 2020 when only the MC met online, this year the MC meeting was preceded by online meetings of the Review Committee (RC) and Maintenance Group (MG) on 24 February and 3 March respectively. This replicated the approach normally taken when in-person meetings were held in 2018 and 2019, and enabled the RC and MG to discuss key issues and to develop proposals for consideration and decision at the MC meeting.

MC meeting

The MC meeting was chaired by the new MC Chairperson, Mr Mannie Panesar, and 20 of the 22 MC Members from OIML Member States were present or represented. This meant that a quorum of MC Members was achieved at the meeting, so the MC was able to take decisions in accordance with the voting rules in the OIML-CS documentation. In addition, there were representatives from the following liaison organisations: CECIP, CECOD, ILAC/IAF, and ISO CASCO.

Meeting over two consecutive days allowed for a full agenda, and some of the key items that were discussed and considered were as follows:

- feedback and experiences of participants in the OIML-CS, covering items such as acceptance of certificates, modular approvals, and experience of remote assessments;
- reports by the RC Chairperson and MG Chairperson, including proposals on the activities of the RC and approvals of OIML-CS documents;
- a proposal from the ISO/IEC 17065 Working Group to allow OIML Issuing Authorities (OIML IAs) to use ISO/IEC 17020 (with additional requirements) as an alternative to ISO/IEC 17065 to demonstrate competence;
- review of OIML IA Annual Reports for 2020 and confirmation of their continued participation;
- progress report on the update of OIML R 60:2017;
- high priority publications and periodic reviews; and
- update on the work of the OIML-IECEx JWG.

Recommendations to the 56th CIML Meeting

The MC agreed to the proposal to allow OIML IAs to use ISO/IEC 17020 (with additional requirements) as an alternative to ISO/IEC 17065 to demonstrate competence, so a recommendation will be made to the CIML for them to approve this approach. In addition, a recommendation will be made to the CIML for them to approve a project proposal to develop a new OIML Document to provide guidance and interpretations regarding the application of ISO/IEC 17020 in the field of legal metrology. It is also anticipated that the work on the update of R 60:2017 will be completed in time to allow CIML approval at the 56th CIML Meeting.

Looking forward

The meeting has again demonstrated that an online meeting can be a very useful tool in supporting the work of the MC to ensure that the OIML-CS continues to operate smoothly. It also provided an opportunity to test certain working methods and meeting protocols that can be used at the 56th CIML Meeting and 16th International Conference in October 2021.

It is hoped that an in-person MC meeting can be held in March 2022, but this will require a significant improvement in the global situation regarding OVID-19. The situation will be closely monitored and, if an in-person meeting is not feasible, an online meeting will again be used to ensure continuity in the work of the MC and the smooth running of the OIML-CS.

More use of online meetings will continue to be considered by the various committees and working groups established under the OIML-CS to reduce the need for face-to-face meetings and the associated travel, and to convene ad-hoc meetings to address issues that cannot wait until the formal annual meeting. ∎