

Business Information

Metrication - Food/Drink

How it affects your business

Since 1st January 2000 all food and drink that is sold by weight or measurement has to be in metric. The only exceptions are milk in a pint glass bottle and beer and cider on draught. Anything that is pre-packed must be marked with a weight or capacity measure that is in a metric quantity.

Food/drink	Metric
All pre-packed food	Kilogram (kg), gram (g)
Most pre-packed fluids – e.g. milk/fruit juice in cartons, cooking oil, pop in cans	Litre (l), centilitre (cl), millilitre (ml)
Fluids sold loose by measure - e.g. vinegar	Litre (l), centilitre (cl), millilitre (ml)
Fluids in returnable containers – e.g. lemonade, fruit juice	Litre (l), centilitre (cl), millilitre (ml)
Foods sold loose from bulk weight – e.g. fruit and vegetables, meat, cheese	Kilogram (kg), gram (g)

Milk in returnable containers (bottles), draught beer and cider can continue to be sold by the pint.

What you should do?

1. Make sure that any weighing or measuring equipment you use is calibrated in metric quantities. Equipment can show both metric and imperial units as long as the imperial units are not more prominent than the metric.

Anything which cannot be re-calibrated must be replaced.

Please turn over...

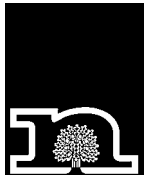
What you should do? (continued)...

2. The person who converts your scales to weigh in metric quantities should notify the Trading Standards Service when it has been done.

It is in your interest to make sure this is done, as un-notified conversions are liable to rejection on inspection.

3. Make sure that any signs or labels you use show metric units. Imperial units can still be shown as long as they are not more prominent than the metric.
4. You will need to recalculate your prices – e.g. a litre of vinegar will be more expensive than a pint.

This leaflet is a brief summary of the weights and measures legislation affecting your business. It is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification contact the Trading Standards Service.



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