



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Business Information

Weights and Measures Act

Sales by length and area

Carpets and Fabrics

Since 1st October 1995 most goods have been weighed or measured in metric.

Carpeting and fabric must be in metric quantities when sold by length or area. See the table below.

Metric	Examples
Metre (m), centimetre (cm), millimetre (mm)	Fabric, ribbon
Square metre (m), centimetre (cm), millimetre (mm)	Carpet

Sales by the piece, not based on quantity, are still permitted - for example rugs.

What you should do

1. Make sure that any 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.

Stamped metre measures must be used instead of yardsticks.

- 2 Any signs or labels you use must show metric units. Imperial comparisons can still be shown as long as they are not more prominent than the metric.
- 3 You will need to calculate and display your prices in metric - for example, a metre of fabric will be more expensive than a yard. Pricing must be by whole unit, that is metre or square metre. Price per 0.84m² or 0.92m is not acceptable.

Examples: £3.00/m (£2.74/yd)

£9.60 per square metre (£8.03 per square yard)

Conversion tables are available from Trading Standards offices.

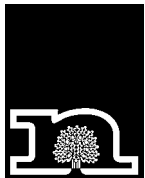
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Penalties

The Trading Standards Service enforces the Weights and Measures Act. Failure to comply with these requirements is an offence. The maximum penalty is a fine of £1000.

Please note:

Trading Standards Officers are entitled to inspect trade premises at all reasonable times - this means when they are open for business.



Contacting us

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This information can be made available
in other languages and formats.

For further information please contact
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