

## International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

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### Key features

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**Type of organisation:** Inter-governmental organisation

**Charter/Constitution:** Convention establishing an International Organisation of Legal Metrology, [www.oiml.org/en/files/pdf\\_b/b001-e68.pdf](http://www.oiml.org/en/files/pdf_b/b001-e68.pdf)

**Membership:**

- Nature: The members are states, whose governments designate a formal representative (generally from departments/ministries responsible for legal metrology or the national legal metrology institute)
- Number: 62 Member States, 65 Corresponding Members and 1 Corresponding Member organisation (September 2017)

**Year of establishment:** 1955

**Headquarters:** Paris, France

**Secretariat staff:** 9 (2017)

**Total budget:** EUR 2.1 million (2017)

**Type of activity:** Policy dialogue, information exchange, development of legal instruments (standard-setting), mutual acceptance schemes

**Sectors of activity:** Legal metrology, especially in the areas of trade, health, safety and environment

**Webpage:** [www.oiml.org](http://www.oiml.org)

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### Members

Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (R.), Macedonia (F.Y.R.), Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, P.R. China, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam, Zambia.

### Relationship with non-Members

As of September 2017, the OIML has 65 Corresponding Members, i.e. countries or economies that cannot, or do not yet wish to become Member States, but are interested in the work of the OIML and participate in it: Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, , Guatemala, Guinea, Hong Kong, Iceland, Iraq, Jordan, Korea (D.P.R.), Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad And Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe, and one Corresponding Member organisation: the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

Non-Members may also benefit from access to capacity-building initiatives supported by OIML, in particular those promoted by Regional Metrology Organisations.

### Observers

Organisations with which OIML has signed formal Memoranda of Understanding are invited to send observers to the annual CIML meeting and frequently do so. Regional Legal Metrology Organisations and representatives on international business organisations active in the legal metrology area also have the opportunity to participate. In addition representatives from a wide range of liaison organisations participate in the “technical work” of developing standards on a project by project basis.

#### Mandate

The OIML is an inter-governmental treaty organisation which acts as an international standard-setting body. “The mission of the OIML is to enable economies to put in place effective legal metrology infrastructures that are mutually compatible and internationally recognised, for all areas for which governments take responsibility, such as those which facilitate trade, establish mutual confidence and harmonise the level of consumer protection worldwide.” (OIML B 15:2011, OIMLStrategy)

## IRC processes taking place within the International Organization of Legal Metrology



### Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)		
Legally binding decisions		
Recommendations	√	104
Political declarations		
Model treaties or law	√	1
Production of technical standards	√	
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	65

### Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√	UNIDO, WTO/OMC, WMO, EU, ISO, IEC, and regional legal metrology organisations, such as European Cooperation in Legal Metrology (WELMEC), Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF), Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrology Institutions (COOMET). OIML signed specific MoUs with IEC, ISO, UNIDO and Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), ILAC and IAF
MoU or other agreements	√	
Participate in co-ordinating institution		
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	
Exchange information	√	

#### OIML history

The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) was established under a diplomatic treaty signed in Paris on 12 October 1955 to promote the global harmonisation of legal metrology procedures that underpin and facilitate international trade. Such harmonisation ensures that certification of measuring devices in one country is compatible with certification in another, thereby facilitating trade in the measuring devices and in products that rely on the measuring devices. The OIML complies with the WTO/OMC accepted principles for international standardisation.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>