PRELIMINARY BIML WORKING DOCUMENT

November 9, 2006

Taking into account tests performed by manufacturers in OIML Evaluation Reports issued according to OIML B 3 *OIML Certificate System for Measuring Instruments* and OIML B 10-1 *Framework for a Mutual Acceptance Arrangement on OIML Type Evaluations*

This document is intended to be discussed and commented on prior to the revisions of OIML B 3 and OIML B 10-1.

It does not cover the case where the tests are performed by a Testing Laboratory which uses the manufacturer's test facilities. In such a case, the Testing Laboratory is responsible for proving that the manufacturer's test facilities conform to the requirements (e.g. calibration, uncertainties) in the same way as its own facilities. Such a case is covered by the guidelines for the application of ISO/IEC 17025 to type evaluation testing and examination (see 2CD of the OIML TC 3/SC 5 project p4*)*.

This document does not cover tests performed by manufacturers prior to applying for OIML Certificates.

Some type evaluation tests may be performed directly by the manufacturer without the Issuing Authority's or any Testing Laboratory's supervision, in which case certain requirements should be established to ensure impartiality.

Two cases may be distinguished according to whether the manufacturer's testing laboratory is accredited by an accreditation body which is a full ILAC Member and MRA signatory, or whether it is not accredited.

Nevertheless, in both cases, the manufacturer's testing laboratory should be a designated Testing Laboratory as defined in OIML B 3 (3.3.1) and in OIML B 10-1 (3.13).

This means that the manufacturer's testing laboratory shall be designated by the Issuing Authority, and becomes one of its subcontracting Testing Laboratories in the same way as any other Testing Laboratory involved in the type evaluation process.

The Issuing Authority shall define the list of tests that the manufacturer is allowed to carry out and the procedures he has to apply.

The conformity examination shall be performed prior to the performance tests, and arrangements shall be made to ensure that the original configuration of the sample(s) is maintained during all the performance tests.

1 The manufacturer's testing laboratory is accredited by an accreditation body which is a full ILAC Member and MRA signatory

1.1 The scope of the accreditation of the manufacturer's testing laboratory shall include tests and examinations defined in the applicable OIML Recommendation.

1.2 The test report issued by the manufacturer's testing laboratory shall bear the references to its accreditation.

1.3 In the accreditation process, the assessment team shall include at least one member who is an expert in legal metrology and in particular in type approval of the relevant category of measuring instruments (e.g. expert from the joint list of experts to be developed by ILAC and the OIML).

1.4 In addition, for the implementation of the MAA, the CPR shall examine the procedure developed by the OIML Issuing Authority to designate its subcontracting testing laboratory.
BIML Comment: According to OIML B 10-1, the CPR is responsible for examining the accreditation audit report of the accredited laboratory. Since manufacturers' testing laboratories are concerned, the number of testing laboratories may be significant and may change regularly. Consequently, the BIML suggests transferring the responsibility of such an examination to the OIML Issuing Authority provided that the CPR has validated the procedure implemented by the OIML Issuing Authority. An alternative could be to request the OIML Issuing Authority to be accredited according to ISO Guide 65 requirements.

2 The manufacturer's testing laboratory is not accredited

Note: The following requirements are applicable whether the manufacturer's testing laboratory is not accredited at all or whether tests and examinations defined in the applicable OIML Recommendation do not fall under the scope of the manufacturer's testing laboratory accreditation.

2.1 The Issuing Authority should define a specific procedure which explains the way in which the results of the tests performed by the manufacturer are validated. This procedure may include duplication of certain tests under the supervision of the Issuing Authority or one of its subcontracting Testing Laboratories.

2.2 The manufacturer's testing laboratory shall be assessed by the OIML Issuing Authority in order to evaluate its competence and to decide whether its testing equipment is appropriate.

BIML Comment: For the implementation of the MAA, only solution 1 should be applied since it is not possible to peer-assess all manufacturers' testing laboratories. In addition, assessment of testing laboratories by the OIML Issuing Authority could not be considered equivalent to an accreditation by a National Accreditation Body.