

CHAPTER 90:014

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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SCHEDULE—Fees

1929 Ed.
c. 263
1953 Ed.
c. 343

CHAPTER 90:14

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT

2 of 1851

An Act for establishing Uniformity of Weights and Measures in Guyana.

[1ST JANUARY, 1851]

Short title.

1. This act may be cited as the Weights and Measures Act.

Interpretation.
[4 of 1972]

2. In this Act—

“Guyana standards of weight and measure”, “Guyana standards” or “standards” means the Guyana standards referred to in section 3(1);

“Inspector of weights and measures” or “Inspector” means an Inspector of weights and measures designated in accordance with section 4.

Guyana standards, copies and models and their custody.
[4 of 1972]

3. (1) The standards representing such units of weight and measure as are mentioned in the Weights and Measures Act, 1824, of the United Kingdom and in use in Guyana on the 26th May, 1966, shall be the Guyana standards of weight and measure.

(2) The Guyana standards shall be in the custody of the Secretary to the Treasury and shall be used for the verification of the copies mentioned in subsection (3).

(3) The Minister shall cause to be made copies and models of the Guyana standards and such copies, after being verified in such manner as the Minister shall specify, shall be placed in the custody and under the control of inspectors of weights and measures.

(4) if at any time any standard or any copy thereof is lost, destroyed, defaced, damaged or found by the Minister to be unsuitable, the Minister shall cause that standard or copy to be replaced by a fresh standard or copy.

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4. The Minister shall designate such public officers as he thinks fit as inspectors of weights and measures, and may assign such inspectors to a particular area or particular areas of Guyana.

Appointment of inspectors. [4 of 1972]

5. (1) The table in the Second Schedule shall be deemed to set forth for use in any trade or business the equivalents of imperial weights and measures and of the weights and measures therein expressed in terms of the metric system, and such table may be lawfully used for computing and expressing, in weights and measures, weights and measures of the metric system.

Equivalents of metric weights and measures in terms of imperial weights and measures.

(2) Where in any law a rate of duty, tax or price is imposed or fixed with reference to imperial weights and measures or to weights and measures of the metric system, such reference may be construed and have effect as a reference to the equivalent weights and measures of the metric system or of the imperial system as the case may be.

(3) The Minister may by order amend the table in the Second Schedule.

6. All articles sold by weight shall be sold by avoirdupois weight, except gold, silver, platina, diamonds, or other precious stones, which may be sold by troy weight, and drugs which when sold by retail may be sold by apothecaries weight.

Articles to be sold by avoirdupois weight, with certain exceptions.

7. Notwithstanding anything contained in any written law metric weights or measures may be lawfully used in any trade or business and a contract or dealing is not invalid or open to objection on the ground that the weights or measures expressed or referred to therein are weights or measures of the metric system, or on the ground that decimal subdivisions of weights and measures, whether metric or otherwise, are used in such contract or dealing.

Exception for contract or dealing in metric weights and measures.

8. The weight denominated a stone shall in all cases consist of fourteen standard pounds avoirdupois, and the weight denominated a hundred-weight shall consist of eight stones, and the weight denominated a ton shall consist of twenty hundred-weight.

Stone, hundred-weight and ton.

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Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent any bargain, sale, or contract being made by any multiple or by some aliquot part, such as the half, the quarter, the eighth, or the sixteenth part of the pound weight.

Measure of capacity.

9. (1) The standard measure of capacity, as well for liquid as for dry good, shall be the standard gallon mentioned and referred to in the aforesaid Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom and that standard gallon shall be, and is hereby declared to be, the unit and only standard measure of capacity, from which all other measures to be used, as well for wine, beer, ale, spirits, and all sorts of liquids as for dry goods, shall be derived, computed, and ascertained.

(2) All measures of capacity shall be taken in parts or multiples or certain proportions of the standard gallon, and the quart shall be the fourth part of the standard gallon, the pint shall be one-eighth of the standard gallon, two gallons shall be a peck, eight gallons shall be a bushel, and eight bushels shall be a quarter of corn or other dry goods.

(3) Whenever it is necessary to convert the common wine gallons heretofore in use in Guyana into standard gallons, six wine gallons shall be held and be taken to be equal to five standard gallons, and in the same proportion for any greater or lesser quantity.

Rice to be sold by standard weight or measure.

10. (1) Rice shall be sold only by weight or measure and notwithstanding anything in section 16 contained no special agreement may be made for the sale of rice by other than the standard weights and measures by this Act provided.

(2) Everyone who buys or sells rice by any weight or measure other than the standard weights and measures, or who in buying or selling rice uses any weight or measure other than the duly stamped under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred and fifty dollars.

Weights and measures to be stamped.

11. All weights made or imported after the commencement of this Act of the weight of one pound avoirdupois or more shall have the number of pounds contained in each of those weights stamped or cast at or on the top or side thereof, in legible figures and letters; and all

measures of capacity made or imported after the commencement of this Act shall have their contents denominated, stamped, or marked, on the outside of those measures, in legible figures and letters.

12. To prevent frauds by the use of weights made of soft materials, no weight made of lead or pewter, or of any mixture thereof, shall be stamped or used:

Weights made of lead or pewter not to be stamped or used.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the use of lead or pewter, or of any mixture thereof, in the manufacture of weights, if they are wholly and substantially cased with brass, copper, or iron, and legibly stamped or marked "cased", or shall prevent the insertion of any plug of lead or pewter into weights *bona fide* necessary for the purpose of adjusting them and affixing thereon the stamp hereinafter mentioned.

13. (1) The Minister shall at the public expense provide for the use of each inspector of weights and measures good and sufficient stamps for stamping or sealing weights and measures used or to be used in Guyana, and the stamps so provided shall be taken to be the stamps of the area for which they are provided.

Stamps for inspectors, and use thereof. [19 of 1952 4 of 1972]

(2) All weights and measures whatsoever, save as hereinafter excepted, used for the purposes of any trade or business or for any purpose incidental thereto, or for the collecting of any tolls or duties or for the making of charges on the conveyance of goods or merchandise, shall be examined and compared with one or more of the copies of the standard weights and measures provided under the authority of this Act, for the purpose of comparison by an inspector, who shall stamp, in such manner as best to prevent fraud, those weights and measures, when so examined and compared, if found to correspond with the copies.

(3) The fees for the examination, comparison and stamping shall be according to the scale contained in the First Schedule.

Schedule.

(4) Subject to negative resolution of the National Assembly, the Minister may by Order amend the Schedule.

(5) Everyone who, for any trade or business or for any purpose incidental thereto, uses or has in his possession any weight or measure other than those authorised by this Act, or some aliquot part thereof as hereinbefore described, or which has not been so stamped as aforesaid save as hereinafter excepted, or which is found light or otherwise unjust, shall on summary conviction be liable to---

(a) a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for not less than three nor more than twelve months;

(b) a fine of not less nor more than one thousand dollars together with imprisonment for not less than twelve months, on a second or subsequent conviction.

(6) Any contract, bargain, sale or dealing made by that weight or measure shall be wholly nully and void.

(7) Every light or unjust weight and measure so used, on discovery by any inspector as aforesaid, shall be seized, and on conviction of the person so using or possessing it shall be forfeited, broken up, and sold, and the proceeds thereof shall be paid to the Accountant General for the public use:

Provided the nothing herein contained shall extend to require any single weight above fifty-six pounds to be inspected and stamped, that weight of fifty-six pounds being the greatest of the standard weights deposited with the Secretary to the Treasury under section 3, or to require to be stamped any wooden or wicker measure used in the sale of lime or other articles of the like nature, or any glass or earthenware jug or drinking cup, though represented as containing the amount of any standard measure, or of any multiple thereof.

(8) Anyone buying by a vessel so represented as containing the amount of a standard measure, or of any multiple thereof, is hereby authorised to require the contents of that vessel to be ascertained by a comparison with a stamped measure, the stamped measure to be found and provided by the person who uses the wooden or wicker measure, glass, jug, or drinking cup aforesaid, and if the person who uses the last-mentioned measure or vessel refuses to make that comparison, or

if, upon the comparison being made, the wooden or wicker measure, glass, jug, or drinking cup is found to be deficient in capacity, the person who uses it shall on conviction be subject to the forfeitures and penalties hereinbefore imposed on anyone using a light or unjust weight or measure.

(9) Any person who for trade or business or for any purpose incidental thereto uses or has in his possession any scale, balance, steelyard or other weighing machine which is false or unjust shall on summary conviction be liable to—

(a) a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for not less than three months nor more than twelve months.

(b) a fine of not less nor more than one thousand dollars together with imprisonment for not less nor more than twelve months, on a second or subsequent conviction,

any any contract, bargain, sale or dealing made by the same shall be void and the scale, balance, steelyard or other weighing machine shall be liable to be forfeited.

14. Where any weight, measure, scale, balance, steelyard or other weighing machine is found in the possession of any person carrying on any trade or business or on the premises of any person which, whether a building or in the open air, whether open or enclosed, are used for trade or business or for any purpose incidental thereto, such person shall be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to have such weight, measure, scale, balance, steelyard or other weighing machine in his possession for use for trade or business or for purposes incidental thereto.

Evidence of possession.
[19 of 1952]

15. Every inspector may be required by the Minister to enter into a bond or recognisance to the State in the sum of five hundred dollars for the due and punctual performance of his duties under this Act and for a due and punctual return to the Accountant General, at the expiration of each and every month, of all fees received by him under the authority of this Act, and for the safety of the stamps and copies of the

Inspector of weights and measures to give security.
[4 of 1972]

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standard weights and measures committed to his charge, and for their due restoration and surrender to the person or persons appointed by the Minister to receive them.

Comparing
and stamping
weights and
measures.
[4 of 1972]

16. (1) Every inspector shall examine, compare, and stamp if found correct, all weights and measures brought to him for that purpose, and shall also upon all measures and upon all weights of a quarter of a pound and upwards stamp such number or mark as may be directed by the Minister, and he shall keep a book wherein he shall enter minutes of all those comparisons and give if required a certificate under his hand of every stamping.

(2) Every inspector who knowingly stamps any weight or measure of any residing in an area outside the area to which he is appointed under section 4 shall be liable to a fine of thirty dollars for every weight or measure which he so stamps.

Entry and
inspection of
weights and
measures.
[19 of 1952,
4 of 1972]

17. (1) Every inspector, justice of the peace, district commissioner or member of the police force not below the rank of corporal may at all reasonable times inspect all weights, measures, scales, balances, steelyards and other weighing machines within his jurisdiction which are used or are in the possession of any person or on any premises for use for trade, or business or for purposes incidental thereto, and may compare every such weight and measure with the copies of the standard weights and measures required or authorised to be provided under this Act, and may seize and detain any weight, measure, scale, balance, steelyard or other weighing machine which is liable to be forfeited in pursuance of this Act, and may for the purpose of such inspection enter any place, whether a building or in the open air, whether open or enclosed, whether he has reasonable cause to believe that there is any weight, measure, scale, balance, steelyard or other weighing machine which he is authorised by this Act to inspect.

(2) Any person who neglects or refuses to produce for such inspection all weights, measures, scales, balances, steelyards and other weighing machines in his possession or on his premises, or refuses to permit any inspector, justice of the peace, district commissioner or member of the police force as aforesaid to examine the same or any of them, or obstructs the entry of the inspector, justice of the peace,

district commissioner or member of the police force as aforesaid under this section, or otherwise obstructs or hinders any inspector, justice of the peace, district commissioner or members of the police force as aforesaid acting under this section, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of seventy-five dollars or, in the case of a second offence, to a fine of one hundred and fifty dollars.

18. All contracts, bargains, sales, and dealings made or had within any part of Guyana for work to be done, or for goods, wares, merchandise, or other thing to be sold, delivered, done, or agreed for, by weight or measure, where no special agreement is made to the contrary, shall be deemed, taken, and construed to be made and had according to the standard weights and measures ascertained by this Act; and whenever any special agreement is made with reference to any weight or measure established in Guyana, the ratio or proportions which each of those weights or measures bears to any of the standard weights or measures shall be expressed, declared, and specified in that agreement, or otherwise the agreement shall be null and void.

Transactions to refer to standard weights and measures, unless contrary specified.

19. If an inspector or other person legally authorised to examine any weight or measure, stamps any weight or measure without duly verifying it by comparison with a copy of the standard, or is guilty of a breach of any duty imposed upon him by this Act, or otherwise misconducts himself in the execution of his office, he shall for each offence be liable to a fine of seventy-five dollars.

Neglect of duty by inspector of weights and measures. [4 of 1972]

20. (1) Everyone who makes, forges, or counterfeits, or causes or procures to be made, forged, or counterfeited, or knowingly acts or assists in making, forging, or counterfeiting, any stamp or mark which is or may be used for stamping or marking any weight or measure under this Act, shall for each offence be liable to a fine of not less than one hundred and fifty dollars and not more than seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Forgery of weight or measure.

(2) Everyone who knowingly sells, utters, disposes of, or exposes to sale any weight or measure with a forged or counterfeit stamp or mark thereon shall for each offence be liable to a fine of not less than thirty dollars and not more than one hundred and fifty dollars.

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(3) Every weight or measure with that forged or counterfeited stamp or mark shall be forfeited, broken up, and sold, and the proceeds thereof shall be paid to the Accountant General for the public use.

Publishing returns, denoting greater or less weight or measure than standard weight or measure.

21. From and after the commencement of this Act, if anyone prints, or if the clerk of a market or other person makes, any return, price list, or price current, in which the denomination of weights and measures quoted or referred to denotes or implies a greater or less weight or measure than is denoted or implied by the same denomination of the standard weights and measures, under and according to this act, that person or clerk of the market shall be liable to a fine of fifteen dollars for every copy of each return, price list, price current, journal, or other paper which he publishes.

Procedure.

22. All offences against this Act shall be prosecuted in the manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.

FIRST SCHEDULE

s. 3

TABLE OF FEES TO BE TAKEN BY INSPECTORS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

1. For examining, comparing, and stamping all weights within their respective jurisdictions—

- (a) Each weight, from half a hundred to a stone, both included \$80.00
(b) Each weight under a stone to a pound 40.00
(c) Each set of weights of a pound and under 80.00
(d) Each weighing machine and steelyard 120.00

2. For examining, comparing, and stamping all wooden measures within their respective jurisdictions—

- (a) Each bushel 40.00
(b) Each half bushel 40.00
(c) Each peck, and all under 40.00
(d) Each yard 40.00

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3. For examining, comparing, and stamping all measures of capacity of liquids made of copper or other metal, within their respective jurisdictions.

- (a) Each five-gallon 40.00
- (b) Each four-gallon 40.00
- (c) Each three-gallon 40.00
- (d) Each two-gallon 40.00
- (e) Each gallon 40.00
- (f) Each half-gallon 40.00
- (g) Each quart, and under 40.00

4. For examing, comparing, and sealing all petrol pumps within their respective jurisdictions—

- (a) Each Petrol Pump 1000.00

SECOND SCHEDULE

s. 4A

TABLE

Equivalents of Imperial and Metric Weights and Measures in Trade or Business

IMPERIAL TO METRIC

Linear Measure

- 1 Inch (in.) = 25.4 millimetres (mm) or 2.54 centimetres (cm)
- 1 Foot (ft) = 0.304 8 metre (m) or 30.4 centimetres (cm)
- 1 Yard = 0.914 399 metre (m)
- 1 Fathom (fa) = 1.828 8 metres (m)
- 1 Pole (po.) (5.5 yds) = 5.029 2 metres (m)
- 1 Chain (ch.) = 20.116 8 metres (m)
- 1 Furlong (fur.) = 201.168 metres (m)
- 1 mile (mi) = 1.609 344 kilometres (km)

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Weights and Measures

Cubic Measure

1 Cubic inch (in. ³)	=	16.387 1 cubic centimetres (cm ³)
1 Cubic foot (ft. ³)	=	0.028 316 8 cubic metre (m ³)
1 Cubic yard (yd. ³)	=	0.764 555 cubic metre (m ³)

Measures of Capacity

1 Gill (gi)	=	1.42 decilitres (dl.)
1 Pint (pt.)(4 gi)	=	0.568 261 25 litre (l.)
1 Quart (qt.) (2 pt.)	=	1.136 522 litres (l)
1 Gallon (gal.)(4 qt. or 8 pt.)	=	4.545 963 litres (l)
1 Bushel (bu.)	=	3.636 9 dekalitres (dal.) or 36.369 litres (l)
1 Fluid ounce (fl. oz) [U.K.]	=	28.413 062 5 millilitres (ml.)

Square Measure

1 Square inch (in. ²)	=	645.16 square millimetres (mm ²) or 6.451 6 square centimetres (cm. ²)
1 Square yard (yd. ²)	=	square centimetres (cm. ²)
1 Rood (rd.)	=	0.092 903 square metre (m ²)
1 Acre (ac.)	=	0.836 127 square metre (m ²) 10.117 acres (a)
1 Square mile (mi. ²)	=	4046.856 422 4 square metres (m ²) or 0.404 685 6 hectare (ha.)
1 Square foot (ft. ²)	=	2.589 998 110 336 square kilometres (km ²) or 258.998 811 hectares (ha)

Apothecaries Measure

1 Minim	=	0.059 19 millilitre (ml)
1 Fluid Scruple (fl. sc.)	=	1.184 millilitres (ml)
1 Fluid drachm (fl. dr.)	=	3.552 millilitres (ml)
1 Fluid ounce (fl. oz.)	=	0.568 261 25 litre (l)
1 Pint (pt.) (20 fl. oz.)	=	28.413 062 millilitres (ml)
1 Gallon (gal.)	=	4.545 963 1 litres (l)

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Avoirdupois Weight

1 Grain (gr.)	=	0.064 8 gram (g)
1 Dram (dr.)	=	1.772 grams (g)
1 Ounce (oz.) (16 dr.)	=	28.349 523 125 grams (g)
1 Pound (lb.) (16 oz.)	=	0.453 529 37 kilogram (kg)
1 Stone (st.) (14 lb)	=	6.350 kilograms (kg)
1 Quarter (qr.) (28 lb.)	=	12.70 kilograms (kg)
1 Hundredweight (cwt)(112lb.)	=	50.80 kilograms (kg)
1 Ton (t) (long ton) (20 cwt.)	=	1016.046 908 kilograms (kg) 1.016 046 908 tonnes (t)

Troy Weight

1 Grain (gr.)	=	0.064 9 gram (g)
1 Pennyweight (dwt.)(24 gr.)	=	1.555 2 grams (g)
1 Troy ounce (oz. tr.)(20 dwt.)	=	31.103 5 grams (g)

Apothecaries Weight

1 Grain (gr.)	=	0.064 gram (g)
1 Scruple (sc.)(20 gr.)	=	1.296 grams (g)
1 Drachm (dr.) (3 sc.)	=	3.888 grams (g)
1 Ounce (oz.) (8 dr.)	=	31.103 5 grams (g)

MULTIPLES OF SI UNITS

Factor	Prefix	Symbol
10 ¹²	tera	T
10 ⁹	giga	G
10 ⁶	mega	M
10 ³	kilo	K
10 ²	hecto	h
10	deka	da

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SUBMULTIPLES OR FRACTIONS OF SI UNITS

Factor	Prefix	Symbol
10^{-1}	deci	d
10^{-2}	centi	c
10^{-3}	milli	m
10^{-6}	micro	u
10^{-9}	nano	n
10^{-12}	pico	p
10^{-15}	femto	f
10^{-18}	atto	a

Note: SI prefixes are not applicable to the base unit—“Kilogram” but applicable to the one-thousandth part thereof, namely the “gram”.

METRIC TO IMPERIAL

Linear Measure

1 Millimetre (mm)	=	0.039 370 079 inch (in.)
1 Centimetre (cm)	=	0.393 700 79 inch (in.)
1 Decimetre (dm)	=	3.937 007 9 inches (in.)
1 Metre (m)	=	1.093 613 yards (yd.)
1 Dekametre (dam)	=	10.936 13 yards (yd.)
1 Hectometre (hm)	=	109.361 3 yards (yd.)
1 Kilometre (km)	=	0.621 371 19 mile (mi.)

Cubic Measure

1 Cubic centimetre (cm ³)	=	0.061 023 744 cubic inch (in. ³)
1 Cubic decimetre (dm ³)	=	0.035 314 677 cubic foot (ft. ³) or 61.024 cubic inches (in. ³)
1 Cubic metre (m ³)	=	1.307 950 6 cubic yards (yd. ³)

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Measures of Capacity

1 Millilitre (ml)	=	0.007 gill (gi.)
1 Centilitre (cl)	=	0.070 gill (gi.)
1 Decilitre (dl)	=	0.176 pint (pt.)
1 Litre (l)	=	1.759 80 pints (pt.)
1 Dekalitre (dal)	=	2.200 gallons (gal.)
1 Hectolitre (hl)	=	2.749 7 bushels (bu.)

Square Measure

1 Square millimetre (mm ²)	=	0.001 550 square inch (in. ²)
1 Square centimetre (cm ²)	=	0.155 000 square inch (in. ²)
1 Square metre (m ²)	=	1.195 990 square yards (yd. ²)
1 Acre (a) (=100m ²)	=	119.959 90 square yards (yd. ²)
1 Hectare (ha) (=1000m ²)	=	2.471 053 8 acres (ac)
1 Square kilometre (km ²)	=	0.386 102 square mile (mi ²) or 247.105 38 acres (ac)

WEIGHT

Metric Weights

Avoidupois

1 Milligram (mg)	=	0.015 432 358 grain (gr)
1 Centigram (cg)	=	0.154 323 58 grain (gr)
1 Decigram (dg)	=	1.543 235 8 grains (gr)
1 Gram (g)	=	15.432.358 grains (gr) or 0.035 273 962 ounce (oz.)
1 Dekagram (dag)	=	5.644 drams (dr.) or 0.352 739 62 ounce (oz.)
1 Hectogram (hg)	=	3.527 396 2 ounces (oz.)
1 Kilogram (kg)	=	2.204 622 3 pounds (lb.)
1 Tonne (t) also referred to)	=	0.984 2 ton (t)

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Troy

1 Gram (g)	=	0.032 15 ounce (oz.) or 0.643 pennyweight (dwt.) or 15.432 358 grains (gr.)
1 Metric carat (or 0.2g)	=	3.086 47 grains (gr.)

Apothecaries

1 Gram (g)	=	0.032 15 ounce (troy) or 0.257 2 drachm (dr.) or 0.7771 6 scruple (sc.) or 15.432 358 grains (gr.)
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