



## **Proposal for a CIML Resolution on the use of terminology in OIML Recommendations and Documents in compliance with international vocabularies**

1. The Directives for the technical work, part 2 (OIML B 6-2:1993), in B.1.2 state:

*"Before specifying a term and definition for a concept, it should be ascertained that no other term or definition for that concept exist in an international vocabulary (VIM, VML, IEV, etc.)*

[...]

*If a term is defined in an international vocabulary, the introduction in a Recommendation of a different term (synonym) for the defined concept or of a modified definition of the terms, is only acceptable in exceptional cases. A justification shall be given in a note."*

2. In 2010, the BIML published an alphabetical list of terms defined in OIML Recommendations and Documents (OIML G 18:2010). The list shows that there are many instances where there exist differences in the definitions between different OIML Publications. Sometimes, these differences may be explained by the development over time in the thinking about the underlying concepts, sometimes they are adaptations to (for instance) the specific type of measuring instrument that is the subject of the Publication. Sometimes the differences may perhaps be explained by the preferences of the author or the members of the relevant TC/SC. Justification of differences is seldom, if ever, given.

3. Recently the 3rd edition of the International Vocabulary of metrology (VIM) has been published. The VIM was developed by the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) of which the OIML is a Member Organization (the others are: BIPM, IEC, IFCC, ILAC, ISO, IUPAC and IUPAP). The OIML has published the 3rd edition of the VIM as OIML V 2-200:2010 to emphasize that the OIML endorses its content and that it should be used as a reference document by the OIML technical bodies. The 3rd edition of the VIM contains many changes in comparison with the previous edition.

4. Currently, the International Vocabulary of Legal Metrology is under revision in OIML TC 1. A meeting of TC 1 decided on many changes in the definitions of terms contained in the current version of the VIML and also decided to add a large number of terms that have been introduced in various OIML Recommendations and Documents since the publication of the previous edition of the VIML.

5. Many terms used in OIML Publications are defined in other international vocabularies and standards, such as ISO/IEC 17000 for terminology in conformity assessment and ISO 3534 for terminology in statistics. The OIML is committed to apply international standards to the extent possible.

6. The BIML feels that terms and definitions in OIML Publications should always be in compliance with the VIM and the VIML and in compliance with other international vocabularies, although in the latter case it is acceptable to use amended definitions if the underlying concepts are different due to the different uses in various fields (for instance: legal metrology and conformity assessment versus statistics).

7. According to the Directives for the technical work (OIML B 6-1:1993) the development of OIML Recommendations and Documents until the Publication stage is the sole responsibility of the respective OIML TC or SC. Only in the Publication stage (after TCSC and CIML approval) would

the BIML be in a position to verify the text for consistency and put the publication on hold until these inconsistencies have been resolved (see 3.6.2-3.6.4 of OIML B 6-1:1993).

8. Although there have been discussions in recent years that the BIML should be involved in the editing process of draft Recommendations and Documents at a much earlier stage, the proposals for the revision of the Directives do not reflect this, as yet. These proposals mention only the BIML responsibility to edit the "Final Draft", ie. after TCSC/CIML approval.

9. In order to ensure the correct use of terminology in all stages of the development of OIML Recommendations and Documents and to strengthen the role of the BIML in that process, the following Resolution is proposed for adoption by the 46th CIML meeting (2011).

10. Proposed text for a CIML Resolution:

*The Committee,*

*Noting the development of the 3rd edition of the International Vocabulary of Metrology - Basic and General Concepts and Associated Terms (VIM) by the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) of which the OIML is a Member Organization,*

*Noting the publication of the 3rd edition of the VIM as an OIML Vocabulary (OIML V 2-200:2010),*

*Recalling the requirements for the drafting and presentation of terms and definitions in OIML Recommendations and Documents as laid down in Annex B of OIML B 6-2:1993, and in particular paragraph B.1.2 "Avoidance of duplications and contradictions",*

*Considering the imminent completion of the revision of the International Vocabulary of Legal Metrology (VIML) by OIML TC 1,*

*Resolves*

*(a) that new and revisions of existing OIML Recommendations and Documents should apply the terminology and definitions of the VIM and the VIML without amendment,*

*(b) that terms and definitions from international vocabularies from other fields (for instance statistics) may be adapted when the concept that they pertain to in legal metrology is different and that such conceptual differences should be explained in a note,*

*(c) that when, in OIML Publications other than Recommendations and Documents, terms and definitions are used that differ from those in the VIM and the VIML, these differences should be indicated in notes, as appropriate,*

*Instructs the BIML to monitor the correct implementation of this Resolution at all stages of the preparation of OIML Publications.*

**Notes:**

(1) Immediately after publication of the 3rd edition of the VIM a discussion started in the JCGM on the concept of 'error', a widely used term in legal metrology. The VIM (developed in JCGM/WG 2) defines 'error' as a quantity value, whereas JCGM/WG 1 (responsible for the GUM) considers 'error' as a quantity. JCGM/WG 2 has, meanwhile, agreed that 'error' should be considered a quantity, rather than a quantity value, but it is unlikely that the VIM will be changed in the foreseeable future (currently JCGM/WG 2 is considering at least 10 years). However, for the application of the VIM terminology in day-to-day legal metrology practice, it does not make much difference whether the term 'error' is defined as a quantity or as a quantity value, as long as it is done in a consistent way.

(2) The draft resolution states that “*new and revised OIML Recommendations and Documents should apply the terminology and definitions of the VIM and the VIML without amendment*”. It may, however, be appropriate to interpret the definition for use in the specific context of the particular Publication. Such interpretation or explanation shall be given in a note and shall not have the effect of amending the concept or definition.

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