

**Public consultation - Update for units of measurement directive**

**Subject :** Comments on Units of Measurement EU Directive 80/181/EEC

Further to your invitation for comments on the above directive, please find below my thoughts. Some of them are general, but where possible I have commented on the specific questions asked by the commission at the bottom of each section.

Please ensure that I am added to any list of communication regarding this consultation.

I am a consumer who cares very much about seeing information clearly and concisely, and the issue of units of weights and measures is of great interest.

We have been running with this scenario of supplementary indications for as long as I can remember, and all I see it does is to confuse people.

Measurements are never exact when you show more than one; it is much simpler and clearer if you just show the one.

The UK has been moving towards becoming a fully metric county since the 1960's, and with the end of supplementary indications in sight, this seemed to be coming nearer. I cannot believe that it is being considered that we should extend this further still, and so possibly continue the confusion!

To respond to some of your key questions:

3. Arbitrary units

If an arbitrary unit is relevant, as in the example you show, then it makes sense to use it. But only if it adds to the description. This is not the same as showing a supplementary indication ie a straight comparison of metric to imperial.

4. Ratios

I am not sure if this implies that km/h would potentially not be legal, as the hour is not an SI unit. If this is the case, then you need to consider very carefully if you want to do this. If we do lose supplementary indications completely, then you must be able to use km/h as it is a universally recognised unit of measurement, using a recognised SI unit of the kilometer.

7. Continuation of supplementary indications

This use of supplementary indications has been allowed for several decades now. The rationale being to help the consumer and to ensure that those educated in the imperial system continue to understand measurements. I am in my mid 40's and the teaching of metric in school started before my schooling. So, as metric has been used for 40 or so years, even if you were not educated in it, you have surely been exposed to it in the past few decades. How much longer do you continue to show imperial? All it does is confuse those of us who were taught in metric and cannot use it to the full!

8. I cannot believe the statement here that "the UK is fully metric, bar the few exceptions". These exceptions include probably the one single largest public showing of units of measurement - road signs. While these continue to be non metric, how can you say that the country is fully metric? The general public sees miles, yards and feet everywhere, although this seems to be seen by the commission as one exception. Once we update the road signage, then we can say we are becoming fully metric, not before.

10. Costs

Road signs need updating regularly anyway. Decals can be used in the meantime. Speed limits naturally need changing overnight, but if Ireland can do this, surely we can too?

Please do not lose this opportunity to bring the UK into the 21st century. We have been going metric for 40 years. We have seen others start and finish the process, while we, for some reason, are unique in our desire

to keep imperial. The metric system is used worldwide. The US do use imperial, but it is not even the same as UK imperial, so we cannot say we use the same system. Let's make life simple and ensure our children become numerate and appreciate the ease of use of the metric system. Please do not extend this directive further still.

Celia Lyon  
Spriternote Limited