

Legal Metrology under Construction: New Trends in Europe and Germany

Plática Plenaria

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RESUMEN

Legal metrology is known in most countries of the world to establish a basis for consumer, health and environment protection. For this reason the general rules and procedures of legal metrology are well-known for some millennia.

In a global world different requirements in legal metrology of national states make it difficult for manufacturers to adapt their products to several markets. In order to establish a single European market with harmonized requirements for measuring instruments the European community decided to develop the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) which is based on the so-called "New Approach". This approach represents a general basis for a lot of new European directives. In all cases the directives contain only essential requirements and refer to harmonized standards, which could be European but also international standards.

The MID contains therefore not only some general requirements but also instrument dependent requirements. It offers several possibilities to manufacturers to put their instruments in circulation. Besides the conventional way of carrying out type approval and product verification also e.g. design examination or quality assurance examination by notified bodies are possible. Whereas the MID is valid for putting instruments in circulation national verification acts are valid for instruments in use.

At the moment the German verification act is under construction to include conformity assessment rules, accreditation of notified bodies and changes concerning market surveillance. The idea is to follow the rules of the MID also for instruments, which are regulated today by national legislation and which are not taken into consideration by the MID up to now. In addition it is intended to allow examination of instruments in use by private second or third parties.