

press release

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SINGAPORE METRICATION BOARD
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1 ANSON ROAD, SINGAPORE 2

TEL : 2227755

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The Weights and Measures (Sale of Goods in Metric Units) Order 1981, which will be operational as from 1 April 1981, stipulates that after the first day of each successive month from April - September, the sale of textiles, groceries, bean sprouts and various types of noodle and 'guo tiao', meat and meat products, seafood and their products, and fruits, vegetables and their products, respectively, will have to be conducted in solely metric units. Traders will have to sell in only metric units, use solely metric calibrated instruments and price their goods by the prescribed metric quantities.

Presently, almost all textile traders possess both metre rulers and yard rulers. They will have to dispose of their yard rulers and sell in metres as from 1 April 1981.

Traders who presently possess non-metric or partially metric graduated weighing instruments need not buy new ones. They can send their instruments for re-calibration, which entails the replacement of the graduated parts of the instruments.

To facilitate the re-calibration of weighing instruments, and to stagger the work-load, a coloured-chit system will be introduced.

Each of the prescribed goods will be assigned a colour. For retailers at the markets and in HDB housing estates, the hawker inspectors will issue these coloured chits at their stalls/shops. Others will receive them through the post. One chit will be given for every instrument. Those who have not received their chits by 1 March should call the Metrication Board. Farmers who sell any of the prescribed items will be issued grey chits through the post, and given till 30 June 1981 to re-calibrate their instruments. If

they require more or have not received the chits, they should call at the Primary Production Department's extension centres from 23 to 27 February between 2 and 5 pm.

Traders should hand these coloured chits to the scale dealers when they purchase or re-calibrate their instruments. The Weights and Measures Office when verifying and stamping these instruments, will accord priorities according to the colour codes as from March. The colour codes accorded to the prescribed goods and period allocated for verification and stamping of related instruments are as follows:-

Colour Code	Prescribed Goods	Period Allocated for Verification
White	Groceries (including preserved and dried goods)	March and April
Yellow	Pasta (including various types of noodle and various types of 'guo tiao') and bean sprouts	May
Red	Meat and meat products	May and June
Blue	Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and their products	July
Green	Fruits, vegetables and their products	August

From now till end of February, the Weights and Measures Office will accept instruments without any coloured chits.

The Board urges all traders to re-calibrate their instruments as early as possible. Traders who are dealing with grocery items are advised to submit their instruments for re-calibration now. If they have any problems, they should write to the Metrication Board at 1 Anson Road (0207) or phone this number: 2227755. The Board will be operating at its new office, 15 Grange Road (0923), tel no: 7341396 from 23 February 1981.