ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE
This Metrology Law determines the principles, rules and measures regarding the management and inspection of metrology activities in order to ensure that such work is carried out uniformly, properly and clearly, ensuring the justice and rights for business people and consumers in order to create conditions to facilitate production, services, exchange and trade, to ensure public safety and a just society, and to contribute to national socio-economic growth and environmental protection.

ARTICLE 2. MEASUREMENT [Amended]
Measurement is the determination of specific values in numbers that indicate the characteristics, dimensions, and quantity of materials to be calculated by accurate equipment and measuring instruments in compliance with the units and measurement standards that have been determined by the International System of Units (SI) adopted by the General Conference of Weights and Measures.

ARTICLE 3. METROLOGY [Amended]
Metrology is the science of measurement, and includes the functions required to ensure the uniformity of measurements within the Lao PDR and traceability to the International System of Units (SI), and to improve the quality of products and services to support domestic and international trade.

ARTICLE 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS [Amended]
If the definitions and terms expressed are not defined by this Law and the regulations adopted for the implementation of this Law, the definitions of terms shall be those defined in the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML) and the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) International Vocabulary of Basic and General Terms in Metrology (VIM).
The terms used in this Law have the following meanings:

1. **International units of measurement** are the units of the International System of Units (SI), adopted by the General Conference of Weights and Measures. [New]

2. **National legal units of measurement** are the units of measurement required by regulations and may consist of the SI units, their decimal multiples and submultiples as indicated by the use of SI and non-SI units. [Amended]

3. **Measuring instrument** is a device used for making measurements, alone or in conjunction with one or more supplementary devices; [Amended]

4. **National Measurement Standard** [or Primary Measurement Standard] is a measurement standard recognized by the Ministry of Science and Technology to serve in the country as the basis for assigning quantity values to other measurement standards for the kind of quantity concerned; [Amended]

5. **Type approval** is the decision of legal relevance, based on the evaluation report that the type of a device or instrument complies with the relevant statutory requirements and is suitable for use in such a way that it is expected to provide reliable results over a defined period; [Amended]

6. **Calibration** is a set of operations that establishes, under specified conditions, the relationship between values indicated by a measuring instrument or measuring system, or values represented by a material measure, and the corresponding known values of a measure; [Amended]

7. **Traceability** is the property of the result of a measurement or the value of a standard whereby it can be related to other national or international standards, through an unbroken chain of comparisons; [Amended]

8. **Verification** is the provision of objective evidence that a given item fulfills specified requirements; [Amended]

9. **Container** means an object that can be used for packaging or transporting goods, such as cartons, boxes, cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles; [No change]

10. **Pre-packaged good** means a good enclosed in a container or wrapped in any manner in advance of wholesale or retail or whose weight or measure has been determined in advance of wholesale or retail sale; [Amended]

11. **Net content** refers to the actual weight or volume of a specific product or goods, prior to being packaged. [small Amended]

12. **Nominal content** is the distinction between real content and nominal content. Nominal content represents an accepted condition which is a goal or an approximation as opposed to the real content, which is always present. (new)

13. **Verification mark** is the mark applied to a measuring instrument certifying that the verification of the measuring instrument was carried out with satisfactory results; [Amended]

14. **Sealing mark** on a measuring instrument is a mark intended to protect the measuring instrument against any unauthorized modification, adjustment, removal of parts, or others; [Amended]

15. **Inspection** is the function of an investigation to ascertain that the legal requirements related to the matter under investigation are observe; [New]
16. Placing on the market is when a measuring instrument or a pre-package product is available on the market for the first time, either for payment or free of charge; [New]

17. Putting into service is the moment of the first use by the end-user of a measuring instrument for the purposes for which it was designed; [New]

18. Market surveillance is the supervision of metrology that is aimed at measuring instruments and pre-packaged goods that are placed on the market for the first time, to ensure that all the elements of the conformity assessment system work properly and result in general compliance of the products. [New]

19. Metrological supervision is the control exercised for the manufacture, sale, import, installation, use, maintenance and repair of a measuring instrument performed in order to check that it is used correctly as regards the observance of metrology laws and regulations. [New]

20. Legal Metrology is the entirety of the legislative, administrative and technical procedures established by the Government, and implemented on their behalf, in order to specify and to ensure the appropriate quality and credibility of measurements related to official controls, trade, health, safety and the environment. [New]

Article 5. Policy on Metrology

The State promotes the use of equipment and measuring instruments that comply with the standards and regulations for use in business production, services, exchange, trade, and the daily use in society in order to ensure safety and justice.

The State gives attention to investment in providing staff, vehicles, equipment and measuring instruments, establishing of an appropriate technical infrastructure, such as laboratories, measurement standards and training center, to ensure the management and inspection capabilities for metrology.

The State encourages domestic and foreign individuals and legal entities to participate in activities and monitoring for metrology, such as research and modernization development.

Article 6. Basic Principles for Metrology

Metrology is implemented according to the following basic principles:

1. The State provides centralized and integrated management of metrology throughout the country; central offices shall be responsible for the macro-management and local offices shall be responsible for the micro-management of metrology;

2. The measurement system of the Lao PDR must comply with the laws and regulations, and with agreements and international treaties to which the Lao PDR is a party.

Article 7. Scope of Application of this Law [amended]

This Law applies to metrological activities of individuals and organisations engaged in production, sale, services, repairs, exchanges and trade throughout the country, except for exchange and trade in heaps, bundles, bags, wrapped packets and
baskets, and also applies to traceability to the International Systems of Units and to improve the quality of goods and services to support domestic international trade.

**Article 8. International Cooperation**

The State is open to cooperate on metrology with foreign countries and regional and international organisations to share experiences, information and capacity building of human resources by the mobilization of aid and other opportunities based on independence, sovereignty, equality, and with mutual benefit to each side to maintain its own interests, and implemented in accordance with laws and regulations, and agreements and international treaties to which the Lao PDR is a party.

**PART II**

**Metrology**

**Chapter 1**

**Units of Measurement**

**Article 9. Legal Units of Measurement**

The fundamental units of measurement used in the Lao PDR are the same as the units of measurement in the metric system or the international system (SI) and include:

1. metre (m) is the basic unit of measurement of length;
2. kilogram (kg) is the basic unit of measurement of weight;
3. second (s) is the basic unit of measurement of time;
4. ampere (A) is the basic unit of measurement of electrical current;
5. Kelvin (K) is the basic unit of measurement of temperature;
6. mole (mol) is the basic unit of measurement of the amount of a substance;
7. Candela (Cd) is the basic unit of measurement of luminous intensity.

In addition, other derived units of measurement used in the Lao PDR are as follows:

1. Litre (L) is the unit of measurement of the volume of liquids, such as water and oil;
2. Volt (V) is the unit of measurement of the voltage between two points of a conductor electric line;
3. Kilowatt hours (Kw/h) is the unit of measurement of electrical energy circulating through an conductor electric line in one hour;
4. Celsius (°C) is the unit of measurement of temperature;
5. Other derived units of measurement as defined in specific regulations.

**Article 10. Use of the Legal Units of Measurement**

Individuals or organisations in the Lao PDR that use units of measurement in their work shall use the legal units of measurement as determined in Article 9 of this Law.

With respect to goods for export, the units of measurement that must be used are those identified in the first paragraph of this Article, unless the contractual parties have agreed [otherwise].
Chapter 2  
Measurement Standards

Article 11. Measurement Standards [Amended]  
Measurement standards used in the Lao PDR consist of three categories: national (or primary), secondary and working standards.

In terms of the procedures, the methods for determination at each category are stipulated in specific regulations.

National (or primary) measurement standards are established by the Ministry of Science and Technology and shall be periodically compared with national standards of other countries. The national measurement standards shall in all cases be the most accurate measurement standards for Lao PDR.

Secondary measurement standards (or reference standards) are measurement standards established through calibration with respect to a primary measurement standard for a quantity of the same kind. Calibration may be obtained directly between a national or primary measurement standard and a secondary measurement standard, or involve an intermediate measuring system calibrated by the primary measurement standard and assigning a measurement result to the secondary measurement standard. Secondary measurements standards have lower accuracy than national or primary measurement standards.

Working measurement standards are measurement standards used routinely for the calibration of equipment and measuring instruments in general use, having less accuracy than secondary measurement standards.

Article 15. Traceability of Measurement Standards [Amended]  
For the application of any legislation determining requirements on measurements, on pre-packaged goods and on measuring instruments, traceability to international system of units shall be required and may be obtained through periodical calibration to other national measurement standards or compared with international standards or national standards of foreign countries that have been calibrated or traced back to the international system of units.
Chapter 3  
Measurements and Measuring Instruments

Article 16. Legal Requirements on Measurements [New]

The Ministry of Science and Technology may define in implementing regulations the quantities to be referred to in the methods of sale, to prescribe that certain measurements are to be the basis of transactions or law enforcement activities, and to define the list of measuring instruments subject to metrological requirements in order to protect public health and safety and the environment and to meet the requirements of international trade.

When necessary and for specific applications, the requirements mentioned above may:

1. Require records of measurement operations to be available to relevant Government authorities;
2. Require the issuing of certificates for the result of these measurements;
3. Require records of the traceability of measurement results to be available to relevant Government authorities.

Article 17. Requirements for Measuring Instruments [New]

The Ministry of Science and Technology shall define in implementing regulations the list of measuring instrument categories subject to legal control and supervision, in order to protect public health, safety and the environment and meet the requirements of international trade.

1. These regulations shall specify the required metrological performance and technical requirements applicable to instruments in these categories, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML) and when applicable, the WTO TBT Agreement.
2. These regulations may set up legal control and supervision of these instruments to ensure that instruments are fit for their intended use, meet and maintain the necessary metrological performance requirements, and provide adequate protection against misuse and fraud.
3. When measuring instruments fail the legal control, the verification mark shall be removed and the instrument must be made to conform, repaired, withdrawn from the market, or removed from use.
4. The regulations may restrict access to certain parts or functions of the instruments, including software, to prevent unauthorized adjustments or interventions. Sealing marks or protection of access to the software may be affixed to physically protect this restriction.
5. These regulations shall allow the Ministry of Science and Technology to recognize conformity of instruments that have been recognized to conform to equivalent regulations in other countries. These regulations may allow the acceptance and utilization in legal metrology controls, of test or verification results issued in other countries.
Chapter 4
Pre-packaged Goods

Article 18. Pre-Packaged Goods

Individuals or organisations that wish to produce or import pre-packaged goods for distribution in the Lao PDR shall have a label that is in conformance with the Law on Consumer Protection, and it shall determine the net content to comply with the unit of measurement as determined in this Law.

Article 19. The Requirements for Pre-packaged Goods [New]

The Ministry of Science and Technology may define in implementing regulations the metrological requirements and legal control provisions applicable to the quantity content of pre-packaged products distributed on the market.

1. The regulations shall describe the nominal size of the goods in pre-packages be labeled on them, and shall be expressed in legal units. The regulations may determine the authorized sizes of the nominal content of the pre-packaged goods, and may require that unit pricing information be provided at the point of sale.

2. The regulations shall specify the requirements to which the net contents in pre-packaged goods are subjected to verification, including sampling plans, test procedures, statistical methods and other appropriate guidance for relevant Government authorities and pre-packers.

3. These requirements shall allow the Ministry of Science and Technology to recognize conformity to Lao PDR provisions of pre-packaged goods where such goods bear marks of conformity affixed under the legal metrology regulations of other countries or under conformity marking systems set up by international bodies.

PART III
RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Article 20. Rights of Manufacturers, Service Organizations and Traders of Measuring Instruments and Measurement Standards [Amended]

Manufacturers, service organizations and traders of measuring instruments and measurement standards are entitled to:

1. Select verification, calibration and testing organizations for measurement control of measuring instruments and satisfaction of technical measurement requirements of measurement standards pursuant to this Law;

2. Lodge complaints against the verification, calibration and testing organizations for the results of verifying, calibrating and testing measuring instruments and measurement standards; file lawsuits against such organizations that violate legally binding contracts;

3. Lodge complaints or file lawsuits against Government agencies for their administrative actions and administrative decisions, pursuant to applicable legislation;

4. Exercise other rights as determined in applicable legislation.
Article 21. Obligations of Manufacturers, Service Organizations and Traders of Measuring Instruments and Measurement Standards [Amended]

Obligations include:
1. Conduct procedures of measurement control on measuring instruments and fulfill technical measurement requirements for measurement standards, as stipulated in this Law before the use of such measuring instruments and measurement standards is allowed;
2. Comply with inspection and examination by relevant Government agencies, pursuant to applicable regulations;
3. Provide correct information on technical measurement specifications of measuring instruments and measurement standards;
4. Instruct customers and users how to properly transport, store, maintain and use measuring instruments and measurement standards;
5. Pay the incurred cost for verifying, calibrating, and testing measuring instruments and measurement standards;
6. Conduct verification, calibration, and testing of measuring instruments and measurement standards upon the request of relevant Government agencies.

PART IV
RESTRICTIONS

Article 22. Restrictions for Organizations Conducting Business [Amended]

It shall be an offence to:
1. Sell or offer for sale a quantity less than the quantity represented;
2. Possess, install or use any instrument subject to legal metrological control that does not bear the required marks or does not meet audit requirements;
3. Represent the quantity in any manner calculated or intending to mislead or in any way deceive another person;
4. Misrepresent the price of any commodity or service sold, offered or advertised for sale by quantity, weight, measure, count or number;
5. Misrepresent measurements of the quality of products used to determine the price or grade of the product;
6. Not comply with obligations of records or not make them available to legal metrology officials;
7. Not comply with corrective actions requested or instructed by legal metrology officials;
8. Hinder or obstruct any legal metrology official in the performance of his/her legitimate duties;
9. Affix fake or undue conformity marking or verification marks;
10. Sell or offer for sale any pre-packaged goods that do not meet the specified requirements referred to in this Law and its implementing regulations;
11. Not perform the legally required measurements and document them when required;
12. Not to fulfill the metrological and traceability requirements prescribed in this Law;
13. Offer for sale or put on the market instruments that do not comply with the legal requirements for the intended use;
14. Affix false conformity markings or affix conformity markings illegally on measuring instruments;
15. Remove any tag, seal, or mark from any weight or measure or measuring instrument without being duly authorized by the proper authority;
16. Refuse or fail to provide justification of the measurement results provided in advertisements or other public communications;
17. Provide false or misleading measurement results in advertisements or other public communications.

**Article 23. Restrictions on Officials Engaged in the Management and Inspection of Metrology [minor amended]**

It is prohibited for metrology officials to engage in the following activities:

1. Show a lack of responsibility or be derelict in their duties and responsibilities related to metrology operations;
2. Perform their duties unjustly or show bias toward any individual or organisation;
3. Receive bribes or misuse their position for personal gain, or for the gain of their family or relatives;
4. Coerce, threaten or use violence toward another individual related to metrology work;
5. Forge, delay or withhold the issuing of documents related to metrology.

**PART V**

**Dispute Resolution**

**Article 24. Principles of Dispute Resolution**

The resolution of a metrological dispute shall be in accordance with the following principles:

- Equality;
- Fairness;
- Promptness and in conformance with regulations.

**Article 25. Methods of Dispute Resolution [Amended]**

Any metrological dispute may be resolved in any of the following ways:

1. Compromise and mediation;
2. Dispute resolution by the administration;
3. Economic dispute resolution in line with the Law on Resolution of Economic disputes;
4. Suing the People’s Court.
Article 26. Compromise Reconciliation [Amended]
In the event of a dispute involving metrology, the disputing parties shall make every effort to resolve the dispute through discussion, compromise and reconciliation mediation in order to bring the dispute to an end.

Article 27. Resolution of Administrative Disputes [Amended]
If there is a dispute regarding the regulation and decisions by the Government regarding metrology as defined in this Law and regulations, the disputing party may appeal the dispute to a higher level of the Ministry of Science and Technology with regard to decisions under its jurisdiction or other relevant sectors under their jurisdictions.

The relevant Government authority shall resolve the appeal within thirty working days. The absence of a response to the appeal by the deadline shall be a decision to reject the appeal.

If the appellant is not satisfied with the appeal decision, including when the appeal is rejected by a non-response, the appellant may further appeal the case to the courts for final resolution according to the laws and regulations.

Article 28. Resolution of Economic Disputes (Amended)
Where an economic dispute involving metrology occurred, the parties may attempt to resolve it by the economic dispute resolution authority as defined in the Law on Economic Dispute Resolution upon mutual agreement.

Article 29. Suing to the People’s Court [Amended]
When a dispute regarding metrology occurred, the parties may sue such dispute to the People’s Court for final decision according to the laws and regulations.

In the event that an economic dispute on metrology is international, a dispute shall be remedied under either domestic law or an existing contract, or under international agreements and treaties to which the Lao PDR is a party.

PART VI
Management of the National Metrology Authority

Article 30. National Metrology Authority [only changed to MST]
The Government is the centre for the integrated management of metrology throughout the country by assigning the Ministry of Science and Technology to act as the centre for coordination with other relevant sectors, such as: Industry and Commerce, Finance, Public Works and Transportation, Education, Public Health, Agriculture and Forestry, Energy and Mines, Water Resources and Environmental Administration, and local Administration Authorities.
The National Metrology Authority is comprised of the:

1. Ministry of Science and Technology;
2. Department of Standardization and Metrology;
3. Provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments of Science and Technology;
4. District and village sectors of Science and Technology.

**Article 31. Metrology Supervision [New]**

Metrology supervision consists of the metrological, technical and other activities performed by the competent authorities to determine compliance of measuring instruments, measurements, goods, services or any other matter subject to the requirements of the Law on Metrology or any corresponding legislation.

For measuring instruments, the Ministry of Science and Technology shall publish a list of measuring instruments that require type approval and/or initial and subsequent verification.

**Article 32. Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Science and Technology [minor amended]**

In the management of metrology, the Ministry of Science and Technology has the following rights and duties:

1. Research strategic plans, policies, regulations, plans and projects related to metrology in order to propose to the Government for their consideration;
2. Elaborate policy, plans, work plans and state projects related to metrology including their implementation;
3. Publicize and disseminate the Law and other regulations related to metrology;
4. Issue agreements, orders, instructions and announcements related to metrology;
5. Supervise, manage, monitor and assess the implementation of metrology operations throughout the country;
6. Issue regulations for the management of measurement standards,
7. Appoint or suspend the work of a metrology steering unit in coordination with the relevant sectors;
8. Consider and respond to suggestions of others sectors related to metrology;
9. Summarise and report regularly to the government on the implementation of metrology activities;
10. Exercise and perform other rights and duties relating to metrology as provided by Law.
Article 33. Rights and Duties the Department of Standardization and Metrology [New]

The management duties of the Department of Standardizations and Metrology are to:

1. Establish, store, maintain, and continuously improve national measurement standards and disseminate the legal units in accordance with the country's needs, and to ensure participation in the corresponding international activities;
2. Provide necessary advice and support to the Government, industry, commerce and the public on metrological issues;
3. Provide a sound metrological basis to the national accreditation scheme;
4. Provide technical advice and support to the government, industry, commerce and the public on legal metrology issues;
5. Carry out technical work and coordination in legal metrology, in particular type testing, and ensure technical coordination of and technical support to initial and subsequent verification, inspection of measuring instruments and market surveillance;
6. Conduct market surveillance inspections at all levels (manufacturer, importer, distributor and retailer) in the market to ensure that consumers receive fair measure, and that all legal requirements are met;
7. Verify the accuracy of measuring instruments and measures;
8. Calibrate measures and measuring instruments;
9. Conduct technical training courses for its own staff and businesses involved in installation, maintenance, verification and calibration of measuring instruments;
10. Take immediate action to stop the sale of goods when legal metrological requirements are not met.

Article 34. Rights and Obligations of Provincial and Vientiane Capital Departments of Science and Technology (Amended)

In the management of metrology, Vientiane Capital and Provincial Departments of Science and Technology have the following rights duties:

1. Implement this Law locally;
2. Investigate and refer to prosecuting authorities offences to the law on metrology;
3. Direct and implement the legal control of measuring instruments and support the development of the metrology infrastructure;
4. Conduct investigations to ensure compliance with this Law and regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

This may include:

4.1 Inspect and test, or supervise the testing of weights and measures maintained or offered for sale;
4.2 Inspect, test, or supervise the inspection and testing, to ascertain if the results are correct;
4.3 Insure the weights and measures used in determining the weight, measure, or count of commodities or things sold, or offered for sale, on the basis of weight, measure or count, and instruments are correct;
4.4 Inspect, test, or supervise the inspection and testing of pre-packaged goods stored, offered for sale to determine whether they contain the amounts represented.

4.5 Approve for use, and optionally mark, such weights and measures as are found to be correct, and reject and order to be corrected, replaced, or removed such weights and measures that are found to be incorrect.

4.6 Weights and measures that have been rejected must not be used unless corrected, and may be seized if not corrected within the time specified or if used or disposed of in a manner not specifically authorized. The head legal metrology official or designated agents shall remove from service and may seize the weights and measures found to be incorrect that are not capable of being made correct.

**Article 35. Rights and Duties of the District and Municipal Offices of Science and Technology [New]**

The rights and duties of the district and municipal offices of science and technology are:

1. Implement policies, strategic plans, programs and plans with regard to the development of metrology activities of higher level;
2. Disseminate laws and other legislation on metrology under their jurisdictions;
3. Supervise [and] monitor the Village Units of Science and Technology on the implementation of metrology transaction activities;
4. Apply standards and methods to protect and resolve potential problems in the operations of metrology activities;
5. Consider proposals on metrology activities under their responsibilities;
6. Coordinate with relevant sectors and parties within their jurisdictions to manage metrology activities;
7. Collect statistics, information on metrology within their jurisdictions;
8. Regularly summarize and report metrology activities to the District [and] Municipal Authorities and the Provincial and Capital Department of Science and Technology;
9. Implement other rights and duties as defined in the laws and regulations.

**Article 36. Rights and Duties of the Village Units of Science and Technology [New]**

For the purpose of managing metrology, the Village Units of Science and Technology have the following rights and duties:

1. Implement projects, programs, plans and activities on the development of metrology activities of higher level;
2. disseminate laws and other legislation on metrology within their villages;
3. Consider proposals on metrology activities under their jurisdictions;
4. Coordinate with relevant units within their villages on the implementation of metrology activities;
5. Collect statistics, information on metrology within their villages;
6. Regularly summarize and report metrology to the Village Authorities and the District and Municipal Offices of Science and Technology;
7. Implement other rights and duties as defined in the laws and regulations.
Article 37. Metrology Steering Unit [amended MST only]

The Head of the Ministry of Science and Technology shall appoint the Metrology Steering Unit at the central level based on the proposal of the relevant sectors. At the Provincial and Vientiane Capital level, the Provincial Governor shall appoint Metrology Steering Units in order to assist in the management and inspection of metrology activities proposed by the Provincial and Vientiane Capital Science and Technology Departments.

The Metrology Steering Unit at each level shall consist of representatives from other relevant sectors, such as Science and Technology, Finance, Industry and Commerce, Public Works and Transportation, Public Health, Energy and Mines, Public Security, Agriculture and Forestry, Water Resources and Environment Administration and Local Administration Authorities and the Department of Standardization and Metrology.

The Metrology Steering Unit is a non-permanent organization.

Article 38. Rights and Duties of Metrology Steering Units

Metrology Steering Units have the following rights and duties:
1. Monitor and inspect equipment and measuring instruments in order to verify compliance with laws and regulations;
2. Propose to the relevant sectors to take action when it is found that equipment and measuring instruments are not in compliance as required;
3. Report activities on a regular basis to the department of Standardization and Metrology, the Ministries, Provincial and Vientiane Capital Administration Authorities and to relevant metrology organisations;
4. Provide information for conducting investigations on issues related to metrology;
5. Exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as determined by laws and regulations.

Article 39. Legal Metrology Management Officials (Amended)

Legal metrology officials (inspectors) are agents appointed by the Department of Standardization and Metrology or the Provincial authority and are responsible for the execution of various tasks defined by metrology laws and regulations.

Tasks of legal metrology officials include verification and technical inspection of measuring instruments. The legal metrology official should be able to perform inspection and supervision of:

- Net contents in pre-packages
- Measuring systems including software for data processing of measuring results
- Manufacturers and importers of measuring instruments
- Repair firms
- Authorized bodies for verification
Article 40: Conformity Assessment Organizations for Legal Metrology (new)

Where positive assurance of test data and certification results are required, only competent laboratories shall be used to perform conformity assessment activities.

The Ministry of Science and Technology may appoint competent private or Government organizations to perform tasks pertaining to conformity assessment, verification or inspection in compliance with the Law and legal metrology regulations. These organizations shall be impartial and shall perform their tasks in a non-discriminatory manner.

The organizations appointed to carry out conformity assessment shall be accredited by the Ministry of Science and Technology in accordance with the international procedures established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

The Government shall recognize the conformity assessment organizations of other countries that have been accredited in accordance with IAF and ILAC procedures.

Chapter 2
Inspections

Article 41. Market Surveillance [New]

Market surveillance is to ensure that measuring instruments or pre-packaged goods bearing the required markings are placed on the market only after legal requirements have been met.

Market surveillance consists of checking that measuring instruments and pre-packaged goods:

1. Are placed on the market and only put into service when correctly manufactured, with special attention that software is correct and protected from illegal change;
2. Are marked in the required language in the correct position;
3. Have undergone metrological control in the form of conformity assessments, type approval and initial verification as required;
4. Satisfy the requirements of relevant laws and regulations.

Article 42. Metrology Inspection Agencies

Metrology Inspection Agencies include:

1. The Internal Inspection Agency is the same as the National Metrology Authority as described in Article 31 of this Law;
2. External Inspection Agencies include the National Assembly, the State Inspection Agency, National Audit Agency, civil society and mass media organizations.
Article 43. Rights and Duties of the Internal Inspection Agency

The Internal Inspection Agency has the following rights and duties:

1. Inspect the implementation of the Law on Metrology;
2. Participate in the investigation of cases related to metrology;
3. Propose to the relevant authorities to take measures against violators of the Law on Metrology;
4. Summarise the results of the inspections periodically and report regularly to their higher authority.

Article 44. Rights and Duties of the External Inspection Agencies

The External Inspection Agencies have the rights and duty to inspect the implementation of metrology activities within their area of responsibility.

Article 45. Types of Inspection

There are three types of metrological inspections:

1. a regular planned inspection;
2. an unscheduled inspection following an advance notice;
3. an unscheduled or urgent inspection.

A regular inspection is an inspection that is carried out on a regular basis and at a specified, planned time.
An unscheduled inspection following an advance notice is an inspection performed outside the plan when deemed necessary [and] with advance notice to the one who is to be inspected.
An unscheduled or urgent inspection is an urgent inspection without advance notice to the one who is to be inspected.

PART VII
Policies for Good Performers and Measures against Violators

Article 46. Policies for Good Performers

Individuals or organisations showing good performance in the implementation of the Metrology Law with particular strictness and efficiency shall be awarded with a Certificate of Merit or another award according to rules.

Article 47. Measures against Violators

Individuals or organisations who violate the Metrology Law shall be warned, educated, fined, have disciplinary action taken, be required to provide compensation or face criminal punishment depending on the severity of the offence.

Article 48. Education Measures

Individuals or organizations who violate the Law on Metrology and commit a first offence against the laws and regulations related to metrology and where the offence is minor, unintentional, and did not involve a dishonest report, and having
no prior criminal activity and with the resulting damage not exceeding five hundred thousand Kip, shall be warned and then educated.

Article 49. Disciplinary Measures
Staff or officials managing metrology inspections who violate this Law and restrictions and where the offense is minor, not criminal and where the resulting damages amount to less than five hundred thousand Kip, or makes a dishonest report and avoids blame, shall be subject to disciplinary action, such as censure or warning under the Law on Civil Servants and will have a record made in their biographical file.

In the event that the violation is serious or the resulting damages amount to more than five hundred thousand Kip, or a dishonest report was made, or blame was avoided, shall be subject to disciplinary action as follows:

1. Promotion, salary level and merits shall be frozen;
2. Dismissal or transfer to other duties with a lower position;
3. Dismissal from the civil service without any benefit.

An individual facing disciplinary action must return all state property and any property gained illegally to the organisation.

Article 50. Fines
Individuals or organisations who commit a second, non-criminal offence under this law either intentionally or through carelessness shall be fined at twice the value of the damage.

Article 51. Civil Measures
Individuals or organisations that violate this Law resulting in damage to others shall pay compensation in the amount of the actual value of such damage.

Article 52. Penal Measures
Individuals that violate this law and commit a criminal offence shall be punished under Criminal Law, depending on the severity of the offence and shall pay compensation for the damages caused.

Article 53. Supplementary Measures
In addition to the punishments specified in Article ??? of this Law, the offender shall also be subject to supplementary measures, such as suspension or revocation of a business license, suspension from using equipment and measuring instruments, and confiscation of equipment and measuring instruments and of all illegally acquired property, which shall become state property.
Article 54. Implementation
The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic shall implement this Law.

Article 55. Effectiveness
This Law shall come into force one hundred and twenty days from the date of the promulgating Decree issued by the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
All regulations and provisions that contravene this Law are declared null and void.

President of the National Assembly