Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments

Snapshots of IO Practices

Online database containing international normative instruments of different sorts, including international model regulations (OIML Recommendations)

Organisation(s): The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)

The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
1.1	Organisation	The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) is an intergovernmental treaty organisation, which: • develops model regulations, standards and related documents for use by legal metrology authorities and industry, • provides mutual recognition systems which reduce trade barriers and costs in a global market, • represents the interests of the legal metrology community within international organisations and forums concerned with metrology, standardisation, testing, certification and accreditation, • promotes and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and competencies within the legal metrology community worldwide, • co-operates with other metrology bodies to raise awareness of the contribution that a sound legal metrology infrastructure can make to a modern economy.	

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1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	WG 1, variety of international instruments	
1.3	Name of the Practice	Online database containing international normative instruments of different sorts, including international model regulations (OIML Recommendations).	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template	Chris Pulham, BIML	
2	**Description of the Practice**	**Answers**	**Comments and intersections**
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	All OIML publications (International Recommendations, International Documents, Vocabularies and other relevant publications) are available (without charge) on the OIML website here. Current and superseded versions of publications are available in English and (in many cases) in French. Other language translations, submitted by OIML Member States or Corresponding Members, are also made available here. Prior to becoming a published OIML publication, "Committee Drafts", "Draft publications" and "Final draft publications" are also made available online.	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	The mission of the OIML is to enable economies to put in place effective legal metrology infrastructures that are mutually compatible and internationally recognised, for all areas for which governments take responsibility, such as those which facilitate trade, establish mutual confidence and harmonise the level of consumer protection worldwide.	The OIML Online Database of Instruments serves the dual purpose of facilitating the development of instruments (WG1) and supporting their practical implementation (WG2).

		Making our model regulations (Recommendations) and other publications available online free of charge means that as wide an audience as possible has access to them, the objective being that OIML Member States integrate Recommendations into their national legislation.	
2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	Wider availability of OIML publications world-wide; reduction in postal charges through not having to mail out paper copies; faster dissemination of information; greater involvement of the membership in drafting and approving OIML publications.	
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	The online database and corresponding web pages were put online in 2000; the website was overhauled and improved in 2012–2013. A specialist database employee was hired and the whole structure of the database was reviewed, in conjunction with the total review of the website. New dynamic, searchable web pages were developed in-house for all areas of the OIML's activity and the ergonomy of the website – and new queries to the redesigned database – reviewed for a more user-friendly experience.	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	OIML International Recommendations coverring new fields are added as they are developed and approved, and new web-based technologies are actively deployed where possible on an ongoing basis. As a small structure, we have the advantage that changes and improvements can be decided and implemented very quickly An in-depth audit and review of the database structure and coding, together with the website queries, was conducted in late 2020 and the changes recommended by the external auditor will be implemented early in 2021.	The ongoing audit and review of the database structure, coding and queries underlines an intersection between the development (WG1) and evaluation of instruments (WG4).

2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	Accelerating the world-wide dissemination and harmonisation of technical requirements for measuring instruments.	
2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	The core objective of the OIML is to ensure countries and economies that have varying degrees of development can implement OIML Recommendations to benefit their economies and align their legal metrology legislation with those of more developed countries. We must therefore ensure that all our stakeholders are aware of and can access the website, especially the normative section, at all times.	
2.8	Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary? If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.	The online voting and approval processes as defined in OIML B 6 *Directives for OIML Technical Work* are formal mandatory processes which are facilitated by the OIML website and its database.	The online voting and approval processes facilitated by the OIML demonstrate how IT tools can be integrated within international rulemaking practices, in order to enhance their effectiveness. According to the Basic Publication B 6 – *Directives for OIML Technical Work*, this reduces barriers to participation by members, and accelerates the timeframes within which decisions are taken.
2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	The International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) is the functional decision-making body of the Organisation; it meets once a year to take decisions and approve publications but may also do so online during the rest of the year.	

2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad hoc basis)?	Systematically. All OIML Recommendations, regardless of the fields they cover, are approved in the same way by the CIML. They are all available in the Publications section of the OIML website.	
2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	All decisions taken by the CIML are documented and available here. The rules for the approval by the CIML of International Recommendations are documented in the OIML Basic Publication B 6 *Directives for OIML technical work*. This is revised and approved periodically as required.	
3	**Design of the Practice**	**Answers**	**Comments and intersections**
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	It was developed internally and was one of the first online sections of the OIML website.	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	-	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	Initially, several weeks.	
3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	Initially, the BIML staff/Web Team. An external web design company was mandated to overhaul the site in 2012–2013 (though not just the Publications section).	

3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	Ensuring that all the publications were correctly entered into the database, including their year of edition and availability status. Designing and implementing the administration pages for the OIML publications section was a challenge, notably cross-referencing publications with the Technical Committee / Subcommittee / Project Groups responsible for their development. This challenge was overcome by ensuring full admin control over the publications section of the OIML database, and channeling this task to one individual (with backup resources) as appropriate.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	Yes, internally and then with key users (OIML Member State contacts).	
4	**Implementation of the Practice**		**Comments and intersections**
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	The International Bureau of Legal Metrology, which is the Secretariat and headquarters of the OIML, ensuring both the day to day running of activities and the planning of longer term actions.	
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	Yes. All votes by the CIML are taken according to the rules laid down in OIML B 6 (see 2.11). An OIML publication goes through a number of stages prior to final publication on the OIML website (see 2.1, third paragraph).	
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	External liaison organisations are actively encouraged to participate in the work of the OIML in order to ensure that OIML Recommendations, Documents and Vocabularies have the most wide-reaching effect world-wide. The online database itself, however, is managed solely by the OIML.	

4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	The BIML Web Team consists of three members of staff. They carry out all the website and database maintenance in line with the decisions of the CIML.	
5	**Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice**	**Answers**	**Comments and intersections**
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	Yes. See 2.4.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	The original website, including the publications database and web pages, was designed and maintained by BIML staff. An external web development company was hired to redesign the website in 2012–2013 and a new member of staff was hired to manage the database (not just the publications section). External IT consultants are called on for specific tasks where the tchniques are not available in-house.	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? (e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?).	The BIML staff, and certain key OIML stakeholders, engaged in an extended series of brainstorming sessions to ascertain the needs of the Membership and how the database and relevant website sections should be best presented and managed.	The involvement of key stakeholders within the evaluation of the web platform demonstrates an intersection between the development of international instruments (WG1), their evaluation (WG4), and stakeholder engagement (WG3).
5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation,and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	It was decided to overhaul the whole website and render it as dynamic as possible, and to totally restructure the databases (including OIML Recommendations and other publications) in 2012–2013.	

		All pages containing information on publications, TCs, SCs or PGs, etc. are now dynamic and are continually improved as required.	
6	**Additional comments and information**	**Answers**	**Comments and intersections**
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	Comprehensive information on the OIML, its structures, activities, publications, liaisons, memoranda with other organisations, is available on the OIML website, which is regularly maintained and updated.	
	Sources		