PARTNERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL RULEMAKING

Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments

Snapshots of IO Practices

Periodic review of OIML Recommendations and other publications
Organisation(s): 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	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.	

1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	Evaluation.	
1.3	Name of the Practice	Periodic review of OIML Recommendations and other publications	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template	Paul Dixon, Assistant Director, BIML	
2	**Description of the Practice**	**Answers**	**Comments and intersections**
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	The OIML develops technical standards, referred to within OIML as "OIML Recommendations", which are intended to be used as models for establishing national legal metrology legislation. An OIML Recommendation is intended as a harmonised model technical regulation which Member States have a moral obligation to consider, and follow as far as possible, when setting up national or regional legal metrology regulations (See OIML B 1 *OIML Convention*, Article VIII). All OIML publications, including OIML Recommendations, are subject to periodic review. The priority for the periodic review of OIML publications is defined by the Presidential Council and the OIML secretariat, the International Bureau of Legal Metrology (BIML) in consultation with the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) Management Committee, and approved by the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML). High priority publications shall be subject to a periodic review every two years. Other publications shall be subject to a periodic review every five years.	

		The BIML shall conduct a periodic review (see OIML B 6-1:2019 *Directives for OIML technical work*, 6.12) of a publication to decide if a publication should be either a) re-confirmed in its existing form, b) revised, c) updated, or d) withdrawn.	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	The objective of the periodic review process is to ensure that OIML publications are up-to-date, fit for purpose, contain the latest technical and metrological requirements, and meet the needs of relevant stakeholders. OIML Recommendations are a core part of the OIML-CS and it is important that OIML Recommendations address the latest technical developments so that manufacturers can obtain OIML certification for their innovative products.	
2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	Since the implementation of the policy, OIML publications have undergone periodic review. This has resulted in a number of projects being approved by the CIML to revise OIML Recommendations to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. A list of OIML Recommendations is available here and the reviews (Drafts) are made publicly available on the websites for the annual CIML Meetings.	
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	A periodic review procedure was included in the first edition of OIML B 6 which was published in 1993.	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	Yes. In 2011, the procedure was amended to make the BIML responsible for organising the conduct of a periodic review within the appropriate TC or SC. The procedure then remained unchanged until a significant update of OIML B 6 was carried out in 2019.	

		In 2019 the concept of high priority publications was introduced which requires a periodic review two years after approval or reconfirmation of a Recommendation (instead of the standard five years), and the OIML-CS Management Committee are now involved in the conduct of a periodic review for publications of interest to the OIML-CS. For example, OIML Recommendations which are, or could be included in the scope of the OIML-CS. The concept of an "update", for minor changes, was also introduced to provide an alternative to the "revision" option which requires the establishment of a Project Group.	
2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	OIML publications are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they remain fit for purpose.	
2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	Prior to the update in 2019 there had been challenges with inconclusive results from the periodic review process, i.e. there was no clear mandate from the TC or SC as to whether to reconfirm or revise an OIML Recommendation.	
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 periodic review process has a formal basis within the organisation and is detailed in OIML B 6, 6.12.	
2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	High priority publications undergo a periodic review every two years following approval or reconfirmation. Other publications undergo a periodic review every five years.	

| 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)? | The practice is applied systematically. | |
| 2.11 | Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents). | The rules are documented in the OIML Basic Publication B 6 *Directives for OIML technical work*. | |

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?)	The current iteration of the practice was developed by the BIML in consultaion with the Presidential Council and OIML-CS Management Committee. The practice was approved by the CIML when the revised B 6 was submitted for approval at the 54th CIML meeting in October 2019.	
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	Members of the OIML-CS Management Committee, which comprises representatives from OIML Issuing Authorities, Utilisers, international liaisons and manufacturer associations.	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	An initial concept for the current iteration of the practice was first proposed at the Presidential Council meeting in March 2019. The concept was discussed at the OIML-CS Management Committee meeting in March 2019. The concept was developed into a formal procedure and was submitted to the CIML in July 2019, with formal approval taking place in October 2019. In sum, the reform of the review process was achieved in seven months.	

3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	The majority of the design was undertaken by the OIML-CS Executive Secretary, with input from other BIML staff members and the Chair of the OIML-CS Management Committee.	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	Ensuring that members of the appropriate TC or SC are involved in the practice in the case of publications of interest to the OIML-CS where the OIML-CS Management Committee takes the primary role in developing the proposal for the publication review. This challenge is overcome by ensuring that the relevant TC/SC is contacted and involved at the appropriate stage of the process.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	No, although the practice underwent formal review and approval by the CIML.	
4	**Implementation of the Practice**		**Comments and intersections**
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	The BIML is responsible for undertaking the periodic reviews. For publications of interest to the OIML-CS, the OIML-CS Executive Secretary instigates the periodic review with the OIML-CS Management Committee with input from the appropriate TC or SC. For other publications the BIML instigates the periodic review directly with the appropriate TC or SC. The proposal from the OIML-CS Management Committee or TC/SC is submitted to the CIML for formal approval.	

4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	Liaison organisations are represented in the OIML-CS Management Committee and the TCs/SCs so can contribute to the development of the proposal for the periodic review (reconfirm, update, revise or withdraw). However, they are not directly involved in the formal implementation of the practice, e.g. the CIML vote on the outcome of the periodic review.	
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	Not in the decision-making process, but external liaison organisations are actively encouraged to participate in the work of the OIML in order to ensure that OIML Recommendations, Documents and Vocabularies are technically correct, relevant, and have the most wide-reaching effect world-wide.	
4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	One BIML staff member is responsible for the instigation of the periodic review process, with a small number of OIML-CS Management Committee members and/or TC/SC members involved in developing the proposal. There are no budgetary considerations.	
5	**Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice**	**Answers**	**Comments and intersections**
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	No. This new periodic review process was approved in October 2019 and is now being used for the first time. An evaluation/review will be conducted once practical experience of the new process has been obtained.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	N/A	

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?).	N/A	
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.	N/A	
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		
	See also OECD/OIML (2016), "International Regulatory Co-operation and International Organisations: The Case of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)", OECD and OIML, http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/OIML_Full%20Report.pdf		