



Weights and Measures Act 1985

CHAPTER 72

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT 1985

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- 3 Department of Trade and Industry secondary, tertiary and coinage standards.
- 4 Local standards.
- 5 Working standards and testing and stamping equipment.
- 6 Testing of other standards and equipment.

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- 7 Meaning of “use for trade”.
- 8 Units of measurement, weights and measures lawful for use for trade.
- 9 Dual marking and conversion charts.
- 10 Multiples and fractions of measures and units.

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Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Weights and Measures Act 1985. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

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- 30 Quantity less than stated.
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- 63 Instructions by inspectors.

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Part I — MEASUREMENT OF LENGTH

Metric units

Part II — MEASUREMENT OF AREA

Imperial units

Metric units

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Metric units

Part IV — MEASUREMENT OF CAPACITY

Imperial unit

Metric units

Part V — MEASUREMENT OF MASS OR WEIGHT

Imperial unit

Metric units

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Measurement of length Mile = 1760 yards. Furlong = 220...

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SCHEDULE 2 — Existing United Kingdom Primary Standards and Authorised Copies

Part I — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE YARD

Part II — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE POUND

Part III — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE METRE

The British copy of the prototype metre, being a bar...

Part IV — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE KILOGRAM

Part V — AUTHORISED COPIES OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARDS OF THE YARD AND POUND

Copies of the bar and cylinder described in Parts I...

SCHEDULE 3 — Measures and Weights Lawful for Use for Trade

Part I — LINEAR MEASURES

Metric system

Part II — SQUARE MEASURES

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Metric system

Part III — CUBIC MEASURES

Metric system

Part IV — CAPACITY MEASURES

Imperial system

Metric system

Part V — WEIGHTS

Imperial system

- 1
2 Weights of— 500 ounces troy 0·4 ounce troy 400 ounces...

Metric system

- 3 Weights of— 25 kilograms 3 grams 20 kilograms 2 grams...
4 Weights of— 500 carats (metric) 1 carat (metric) 200 carats...

SCHEDULE 3A TO — APPROVALS UNDER SECTION 11A
THE 1985 ACT

PART I — APPROVALS: GENERAL

Fees

- 1 Where— (a) any person makes an application for an approval,...

Form, effect and conditions of approvals

- 2 (1) An approval shall be in writing and, unless previously...

Suspension of approvals

- 3 (1) If it appears to an inspector that, otherwise than...

Withdrawal of approvals

- 4 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, the Secretary of State...

Grant of new approval following withdrawal

- 5 (1) Where the Secretary of State decides, whether in the...

Application for further approval

- 6 (1) This paragraph applies where, not less than three months...

PART II — **REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY APPROVED
VERIFIERS**

Maintenance of quality system

- 7 (1) An approved verifier shall maintain in force such systems...

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Preparation etc. of quality system manual

- 8 (1) An approved verifier shall prepare and keep up-to-date a...

Keeping of records

- 9 An approved verifier shall keep a record of every test...

SCHEDULE 4 — Sand and Other Ballast

Part I — GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1 In this Schedule, “ballast” means any of the following materials, ...
2 Subject to paragraphs 3 and 11 below, ballast shall be ...
3 There shall be exempted from the requirements of paragraph 2 ...
4 Without prejudice to section 15 of this Act, no article ...
5 In measuring any ballast against a calibration mark on such ...

Part II — CARRIAGE OF BALLAST BY ROAD

- 6 This Part of this Schedule shall have effect with respect ...
7 (1) If any of the ballast is being carried for ...
8 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, if all or any ...
9 Any document required by paragraph 7 or 8 above shall ...
10 In the case of any document such as is mentioned ...

Part III — APPLICATION TO SCOTLAND

- 11 (1) In Scotland, paragraph 2 above and Part II of ...

SCHEDULE 5 — Solid Fuel

Part I — GENERAL

Introductory

- 1 This Schedule applies to goods of any of the following ...

Sales by net weight

- 2 (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) below, solid fuel ...

Quantities in containers

- 3 (1) Solid fuel shall be made up in a container ...

Indication of quantity

- 4 (1) This paragraph applies to solid fuel made up in ...

Loads on vehicles

- 5

Information about containers . . .

- 6 (1) This paragraph applies where solid fuel is carried on ...

Exemptions

- 7 There shall be exempted from all the requirements of paragraphs ...

Vending machines

- 8 Solid fuel shall be sold by means of, or offered ...

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Byelaws

- 9 A local weights and measures authority may make byelaws, subject...

Damping of fuel

- 10 Any person who with intent to defraud or deceive damps...

Sale of fuel from vehicles

- 11 (1) This paragraph applies to any vehicle which is used...
 12 An order under section 22 of this act may amend...
 Part II — WEIGHING OF SOLID FUEL AT BUYER'S REQUEST
 13 If in the case of any solid fuel sold otherwise...
 14 Where a request under paragraph 13 above is made in...
 15 Where after any weighing in pursuance of a request under...
 Part III — CARRIAGE OF SOLID FUEL BY ROAD
 16 This Part of this Schedule shall have effect with respect...
 17 (1) If the vehicle is carrying any relevant goods for...
 18 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, if all or any...
 19 Any document required by paragraph 17 or 18 above shall...
 Part IV — CARRIAGE OF SOLID FUEL BY RAIL
 20 Where any seller of solid fuel causes that fuel to...
 21 Subject to paragraphs 22 and 28 below, the vehicle shall...
 22 (1) Paragraph 21 above shall not apply to any rail...
 23 (1) Subject to subparagraph (2) and paragraph 24 below ,...
 24 (1) Paragraph 23 above shall not apply to any vehicle...
 25 (1) The following provisions of this paragraph apply—
 26 Where, in the case of any rail vehicle used on...
 27 (1) If paragraph 21 or 23 above is contravened, the...
 28 (1) Paragraph 21 above shall not apply to any rail...

SCHEDULE 6 — Miscellaneous Goods other than Foods

Part I — LIQUID FUEL AND LUBRICANTS

- 1 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
 2 Subject to paragraph 3 below, goods to which this Part...
 3 Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 2 above, liquid fuel—

Part II — READY-MIXED CEMENT MORTAR AND READY-MIXED CONCRETE

- 4 This Part of the Schedule applies to ready-mixed cement mortar...
 5 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part...
 6 Part II of Schedule 4 to this Act, except sub-paragraph...
 7 Paragraph 5 and 6 above shall not have effect in...

Part III — AGRICULTURAL LIMING MATERIALS, AGRICULTURAL SALT AND INORGANIC FERTILISERS

- 8 This Part of this Schedule applies— (a) to agricultural liming...
 9 (1) Goods to which this Part of this Schedule...
 10 Paragraph 4 and 5 of Schedule 4 to this Act...

Part IV — WOOD FUEL

- 11 Subject to paragraphs 12 and 13 below—
 12 (1) Paragraph 11 above shall not have effect in...
 13 There shall be exempted from the requirements of paragraph 11...
 14 Paragraphs 9 and 10 of Schedule 5 to this Act...

Part V — COSMETIC PRODUCTS

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- 15 In this Part of this Schedule, “cosmetic product” means any...
- 16 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, cosmetic products shall be...
Part VI — SOAP
- 16A In this Part of this Schedule “soap” does not include...
- 17 Subject to paragraph 18 below— (a) soap in the form...
- 18 There shall be exempted from the requirements of this Part...
Part VII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH
LENGTH
- 19 This Part of this Schedule applies to goods of any...
- 20 Subject to paragraph 21 below, goods to which this Part...
- 21 There shall be exempted from all requirements of paragraph 20...
Part VIII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH NET
WEIGHT
- 22 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
- 23 Subject to paragraphs 24 and 25 below, goods to which...
- 24 The following shall be exempted from the requirements of this...
- 25 Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 24 above, nails—
Part IX — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE MARKED WHEN PRE-PACKED
WITH NET WEIGHT
- 26 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
- 27 Subject to paragraph 28 below, goods to which this Part...
- 28 There shall be exempted from the requirements of this Part...
Part X — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH
CAPACITY MEASUREMENT
- 29 This Part of this Schedule applies to antifreeze fluid for...
- 30 Subject to paragraph 31 below, goods to which this Part...
- 31 There shall be exempted from all requirements of this Part...
Part XI — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE MARKED WHEN PRE-PACKED
WITH CAPACITY MEASUREMENT
- 32 This Part of this Schedule applies to enamel, lacquer, liquid...
- 33 Subject to paragraph 34 below, goods to which this Part...
- 34 The following shall be exempted from the requirements of paragraph...
Part XII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH
NET WEIGHT OF CAPACITY MEASUREMENT
- 35 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
- 36 Subject to paragraph 37 below, goods to which this Part...
- 37 The following shall be exempted from all the requirements of...
Part XIII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE MARKED WHEN PRE-
PACKED WITH QUANTITY BY NUMBER
- 38 This Part of this Schedule applies— (a) to cheroots, cigarettes...
- 39 Subject to paragraphs 40 and 41 below, goods to which...
- 40 In relation to postal stationery, the reference to number in...
- 41 There shall be exempted from the requirements of this Part...

SCHEDULE 7 — Composite Goods and Collections of Articles

- 1 (1) This paragraph applies to any goods which, not being...
- 2 (1) This paragraph applies to any goods which, not being...
- 3 (1) This paragraph applies to aerosol products containing any goods...
- 4 (1) This paragraph applies to any collection of two or...
- 5 There shall be exempted from any requirement of paragraph 1,...

SCHEDULE 8 — Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V

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Powers of entry and inspection

- 1 An inspector may, within the area for which he is...
- 2 If a justice of the peace, on sworn information in...
- 3 (1) An inspector entering any premises by virtue of...

Power of seizure

- 4 Where an inspector has reasonable cause to believe that an...

Power to require information

- 5 (1) An inspector may serve, on any person carrying on...

Purchase of goods

- 6 (1) A local weights and measures authority shall have power...

Failure to provide assistance or information

- 7 Any person who without reasonable cause fails to comply with...

SCHEDULE 9 — . . .

SCHEDULE 10 — Provisions Relating to Northern Ireland

Part I — PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT EXTENDING TO NORTHERN IRELAND

- 1 The following provisions of this Act shall extend to Northern...

Part II — STANDARDS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 2 (1) The Department of Economic Development for Northern Ireland...
- 3 For the purposes of providing the Northern Ireland primary standards...
- 4 The Secretary of State shall from time to time as...
- 5 Any Northern Ireland primary standard maintained under this Part of...

SCHEDULE 11 — Transitional Provisions and Savings

General

- 1 In this Schedule— “the 1963 Act” means the Weights and...
- 2 Any reference, whether express or implied, in any enactment, instrument...
- 3 Any reference, whether express or implied, in any enactment, instrument...
- 4 Where a period of time specified in an enactment repealed...

Acts passed before 31st July 1963

- 5 In any Act passed before 31st July 1963—
- 6 Any local Act passed before 31st July 1963 shall continue...
- 7 Where an enactment contained in any local Act passed before...

Standards, etc.

- 8 Any standard which immediately before the commencement of this Act...
- 9 A certificate of fitness for use as a local standard...

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Stamping of equipment

10 Any equipment to which section 11 of this Act applies...

Approved patterns of equipment

11 (1) Each of the following instruments, namely—

Weighing equipment passed etc. before 27th April 1978

12 (1) Weighing equipment (including weights) which weighs wholly or partly...

Products and equipment used etc. before 1st December 1980

13 (1) Nothing in section 8 of this Act shall prevent...

14 (1) Weighing equipment (including weights) which weighs wholly or partly...

15 Paragraphs 12(1) and 14(1) and (2) above have effect notwithstanding...

16 (1) Nothing in section 8 of this Act shall prevent...

17 (1) This paragraph applies to any pattern of weighing equipment—...

Joint local weights and measures authorities in Greater London

18 (1) This paragraph applies to any agreement which—

Relaxation of Ministerial controls

19 Subsection (3) of section 35 of the Local Government Act...

20

Inspectors

21 (1) Any person who immediately before the commencement of section...

“Gallon” and “litre”

22 Nothing in the definition of “gallon” or “litre” in Schedule...

Byelaws

23 Any byelaws made by a local authority for any of...

24 Any provision contained in a byelaw made under paragraph 5...

25 In any of the following, namely— (a) any byelaw made...

26 Where any byelaw to which paragraph 25 above applies contains...

SCHEDULE 12 — Consequential Amendments

The Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928

1 In section 20(1) of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928, for...

The Agriculture Act 1967

2 In section 8(3) of the Agriculture Act 1967, for paragraph...

The Trade Descriptions Act 1968

3 In section 22(1) of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968—

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4 (1) In section 32 of the Trade Descriptions Act...

The Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1972

5 In section 17(5)(b) of the Greater London Council (General Powers)...

The Fair Trading Act 1973

6 In section 3(5)(b) of the Fair Trading Act 1973, for...

The Weights and Measures &c. Act 1976

7 (1) Section 12 of the Weights and Measures &c. Act...

8 In section 14 of the Weights and Measures &c. Act...

9 In Schedule 6 to the Weights and Measures &c. Act...

The Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

10 (1) The Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 shall...

The Local Government Act 1985

11 In paragraph 15 of Schedule 8 to the Local Government...

SCHEDULE 13 — Repeals and Revocations

Part I — REPEALS

Part II — REVOCATIONS

— TABLE OF DERIVATIONS

(1) This Table does not take into account transfers of...

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 3(1)(5) words substituted by S.I. 2007/3224 Sch. para. 4(1)
- s. 3(1) words substituted by S.I. 2009/2748 Sch. para. 4(1)
- s. 3(1) words substituted by S.I. 2016/992 Sch. para. 5(2)
- s. 3(5) words substituted by S.I. 2009/2748 Sch. para. 4(1)
- s. 3(5) words substituted by S.I. 2016/992 Sch. para. 5(2)
- s. 8(5A) words omitted by S.I. 2009/3046 reg. 3
- s. 11A(2)(a) word inserted by S.I. 2008/3262 art. 2(2)
- s. 22(2)(a) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(2)
- s. 25(7) substituted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(3)
- s. 28(2)(a) substituted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(4)
- s. 29 repealed by S.I. 2008/1277 Sch. 2 para. 31 Sch. 4 Pt. 1
- s. 30(1) words substituted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 4(a)
- s. 30(1)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 4(b)
- s. 30(2)(a) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 4(c)
- s. 30(3)(b)(i) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 4(d)
- s. 30(3)(b)(ii) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 4(e)
- s. 32 words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 6
- s. 35(3) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 7
- s. 37(1)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 8
- s. 38(1)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 9
- s. 38(1)(c)(i) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 9
- s. 38(1)(c)(iii) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 9
- s. 38(2) words substituted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 29
- s. 38(3) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 9
- s. 40(3) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(5)
- s. 42 omitted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 30
- s. 42 words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 10
- s. 47-68 repealed by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 1
- s. 55 repealed by 2004 c. 14 Sch. 1 Pt. 5 Group 20
- s. 62(1) repealed by 2004 c. 14 Sch. 1 Pt. 5 Group 20
- s. 62(2)(c) repealed by 2004 c. 14 Sch. 1 Pt. 5 Group 20
- s. 72(1) words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(6)(a)
- s. 72(3) words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(6)(b)
- s. 73(3) repealed by S.I. 2006/1031 Sch. 9
- s. 74(1) words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(7)(a)
- s. 74(6) words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(7)(b)
- s. 75(1)(a) words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(8)
- s. 75(1A)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(8)
- s. 79 omitted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 31
- s. 79(2)(b) powers of seizure extended by 2001 c. 16 s. 50 Sch. 1 para. 36
- s. 79(2)(b) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(9)(a)
- s. 79(3)(a) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(9)(b)
- s. 80 words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(10)
- s. 80 words omitted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 33
- s. 81(1)(b) words omitted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 34
- s. 83(1) word substituted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(11)(a)(i)
- s. 83(1) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(11)(a)(ii)
- s. 83(2) repealed by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(11)(b)
- s. 83(3) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(11)(c)
- s. 84(2) words inserted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 35(2)
- s. 84(4)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(12)(a)

- s. 84(5) omitted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 35(3)
- s. 84(5) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(12)(b)
- s. 85(1) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(13)
- s. 86(2)(a) word omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(14)(a)
- s. 86(2)(b) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(14)(b)
- s. 86(4) repealed by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(14)(c)
- s. 87 words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(15)
- s. 94(1) words inserted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(16)(b)
- s. 94(1) words inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 11
- s. 94(1) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(16)(a)
- s. 94(1) words substituted by S.I. 2007/3224 Sch. para. 4(2)
- s. 94(1) words substituted by S.I. 2009/2748 Sch. para. 4(2)
- s. 94(1) words substituted by S.I. 2016/992 Sch. para. 5(3)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 4 para. 1 words inserted by S.I. 2011/2331 art. 2
- Sch. 4 para. 2 substituted by S.I. 2009/663 reg. 2(2)
- Sch. 5 para. 3(2) omitted by S.I. 2009/663 reg. 2(3)(b)
- Sch. 5 para. 3(1) substituted by S.I. 2009/663 reg. 2(3)(a)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 5 repealed by S.I. 2013/1478 Sch. 5 para. 3
- Sch. 6 para. 5(1) substituted by S.I. 2009/663 reg. 2(4)
- Sch. 6 para. 16A words omitted by S.I. 2013/1478 Sch. 5 para. 4(a)
- Sch. 7 para. 3(2) text amended by S.I. 2009/663 reg. 2(5)(a)
- Sch. 7 para. 5 text amended by S.I. 2009/663 reg. 2(5)(b)
- Sch. 8 para. 4 applied by 2001 c. 16 s. 57(1)(g)
- Sch. 8 para. 4 powers of seizure extended by 2001 c. 16 s. 50 Sch. 1 para. 37
- Sch. 8 repealed by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 1
- Sch. 11 para. 21(2)(b) words omitted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 36
- Sch. 11 para. 21(2) words omitted by S.I. 2006/659 Sch. 1 Pt. 2(17)
- Sch. 12 para. 3 repealed by S.I. 2008/1277 Sch. 4 Pt. 1
- Sch. 12 para. 4 repealed by S.I. 2008/1277 Sch. 4 Pt. 1
- Sch. 12 para. 2 repealed by S.I. 2008/576 Sch. 5 para. 7

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Blanket amendment words substituted by S.I. 2011/1043 art. 3 6

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 27(3) inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 3
- s. 31A inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 5
- s. 79A inserted by 2015 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 32
- Sch. 2 Pt. 5(e) words substituted by S.I. 2009/2748 Sch. para. 4(3)
- Sch. 2 Pt. 5 para. (e) words substituted by S.I. 2007/3224 Sch. para. 4(3)
- Sch. 2 Pt. 5 para. (e) words substituted by S.I. 2016/992 Sch. para. 5(4)
- Sch. 6 para. 16A(1) Sch. 6 para. 16A renumbered as para. 16A(1) by S.I. 2013/1478 Sch. 5 para. 4(b)
- Sch. 6 para. 16A(2) inserted by S.I. 2013/1478 Sch. 5 para. 4(c)
- Sch. 7 para. 2(1)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 12(a)
- Sch. 7 para. 3(1A) inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 12(b)
- Sch. 7 para. 4(1A) inserted by S.I. 2014/2975 reg. 12(c)

Commencement Orders yet to be applied to the Weights and Measures Act 1985

Commencement Orders bringing legislation that affects this Act into force:

- S.I. 2003/708 art. 2 commences (2001 c. 16)
- S.I. 2003/766 art. 2 Sch. commences (2002 c. 40)
- S.I. 2003/1397 art. 2(1) Sch. commences (2002 c. 40)

– [S.I. 2003/2093 art. 2 Sch. 1 2 commences \(2002 c. 40\)](#)