Commission Regulation (EC) No 517/2008 of 10 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 as regards the determination of the mesh size and assessing the thickness of twine of fishing nets

ANNEX III

Technical specifications of the mesh gauge

1. The mesh gauge shall:

(a) automatically apply a longitudinal measuring force when measuring the mesh size of fishing nets;

(b) have two jaws, one fixed and one movable, each 2 mm thick with rounded edges with a radius of 1 mm to ensure that the jaws slip easily over the twine as shown in figure below;

(c) be electrically driven or if battery powered it shall be capable of making 1 000 consecutive mesh measurements before requiring to be recharged;

(d) be able to apply selected longitudinal forces, in the range 5 to 180 N, to the meshes with a precision of 1 N;

(e) have a built-in system for measuring the applied force;

(f) be capable to stretch a mesh at a constant speed of 300 ± 30 mm/min by the movable jaw;

(g) be able to measure meshes from 10 to 300 mm and have detachable jaws for use on small and large meshes;

(h) have a measurement precision of 1 mm;

(i) have a structure which is rigid and shall not be distorted under load;

(j) be light yet robust and should weigh no more than 2,5 kg;

(k) be made of materials resistant to corrosion under marine conditions;

(l) be water resistant and unaffected by dust to standard IP56[(1)];

(m) be stable in operation over a temperature range of – 10 to + 45 °C;

(n) be able to withstand temperatures between – 30 and 70 °C during storage and transportation;

(o) be controlled by software which should provide a menu of functions and enable the gauge to self-test the electronic and mechanical parts when started;

(p) display that the gauge is ready for use and if not, display an error message, close down and cease operating;

(q) be possible to operate with one hand and the functions must be accessed via external buttons;

(r) show data on an integral display and present each measurement, the number of measurements made in a series, and the mean value in millimetres;

(s) store the data of at least 1 000 measurements in its memory and it must be possible to transmit data to a computer;

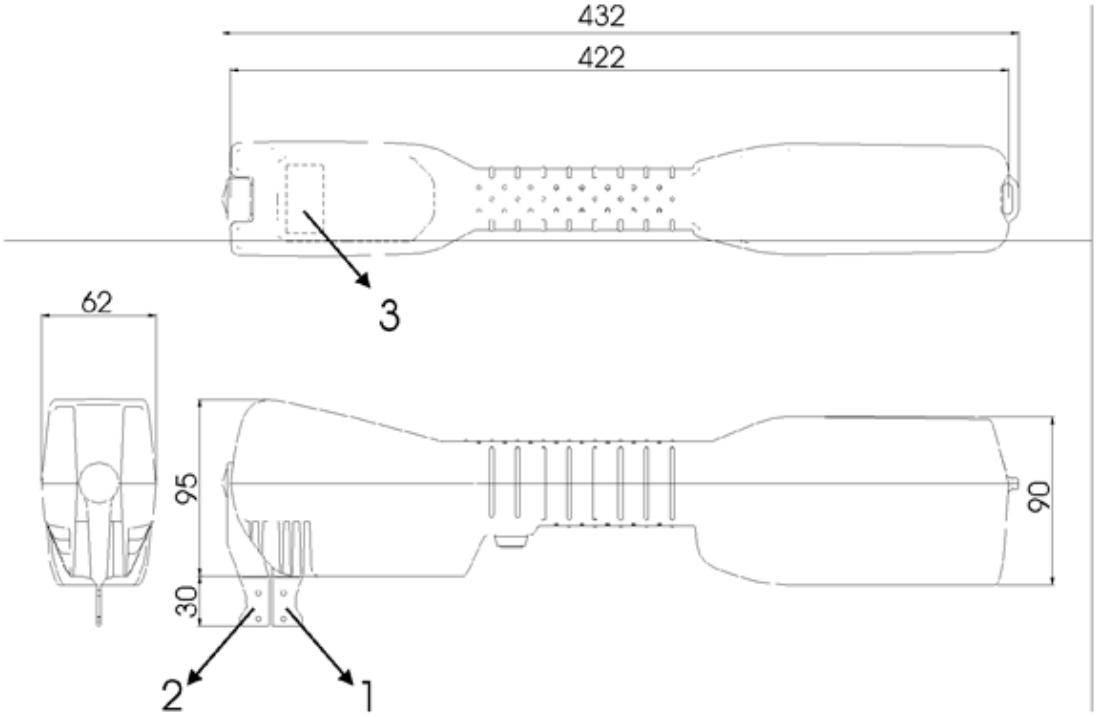
(t) contain a function to calculate the mean mesh size rounded to the nearest 0,1 mm;

(u) incorporate software having a function to automatically select the largest diagonal of each mesh to calculate the mean mesh size of the square mesh netting;

(v) save the data of all measurements made.

2. Some netting creeps under load. The gauge must respond to this condition by reapplying the fixed force, requiring an algorithm in the controlling software, as described in the Appendix.

Figure (These drawings are for illustrative purposes only)



Appendix to Annex III

Measurement algorithm

To allow for creep in a stretched mesh:

1. extend the movable jaw into the mesh at a constant speed of 300 ± 30 mm/min[(2)], until the measurement force is reached;

2. stop the motor and wait for 1 second;

3. if the force drops below 80 % of the pre-set measurement force, extend the movable jaw into the mesh until the measurement force is reached once more.

(**1**) Internal protection (IP) codes are specified in the international standard of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 60529.

(**2**) Speed of the movable jaw during the stretching of the mesh. The unloaded speed of the movable jaw can be higher.

Changes to legislation:
There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Regulation (EC) No 517/2008, ANNEX III.