

LENGTH UNITS

Metre is the world standard:

- **Although spelled either way, a distinction can be made. A meter is a measuring device, while a metre is a unit of length. For example, an electronic distance meter may be used to measure distances in metres.**
- **Originally defined as 1:10,000,000 of the arc distance from the equator to the pole (on the basis of a French geodetic survey conducted in the 1790's).**
- **Now defined as the distance light (in a vacuum) will travel in 1/299,792,458 seconds.**

Exact conversions are:

- **0.3048 metres = 1 International Foot**
- **12.000 metres = 39.37 U.S. Survey Feet (1 metre = 39.37 inches)**

Length Units Used by Other Professions:

- **Chains: Used by abstractors, attorneys, and BLM.**
- **Foot, inches, and fractions: Used by architects, carpenters, etc.**
- **Decimal Feet: Used by engineers etc.**
- **Metres: Used by geodesists, scientists, etc.**
- **Others: ?**

Since surveyors work for many disciplines and professionals, we should know and be able to use whatever units of length our client needs or to which they are accustomed. We should also be aware that the United States is one of the few countries in the world not committed to using metric units in everyday practice and commerce.