

Weights and Measures in New Mexico

Chapter 17 – Trade Practices and Regulations:

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57-17-2. Systems of weights and measures.

The system of weights and measures in customary use in the United States and the metric system of weights and measures are jointly recognized, and either one or both of these systems shall be used for all commercial purposes in the state. The definitions of basic units of weights and measure, the tables of weight and measure and weights and measures equivalents as published by the national bureau of standards shall be used by the board in arriving at standards which shall govern weighing and measuring equipment and transactions in the state.

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57-17-3. Physical standards.

Weights and measures that are traceable to the United States prototype standards supplied by the federal government, or approved as being satisfactory by the national bureau of standards shall be the state primary standards of weights and measures. The state primary standards shall be maintained in such calibration as prescribed by the national bureau of standards. Secondary standards may be prescribed by the director. Secondary standards shall be verified upon their initial receipt and as often thereafter as deemed necessary by the director.

Question: Are the length units used by the spatial data community (including surveying and engineering) exempt from the statutory requirements in New Mexico to be in compliance with the standards adopted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)?

Opinion: Hopefully the New Mexico Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors (NMBOLPEPS) will to choose to designate the U.S. Survey Foot as a legacy unit because “it is the right thing to do.”

See <http://www.globalcogo.com/Foot-SPCS.pdf>

Earl F. Burkholder, PS, PE, F.ASCE
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