

**SPECIFICATION  
FOR  
STAMPING EQUIPMENT**

In accordance with the provisions of section 5(5) of the Weights and Measures Act 1985, the Secretary of State hereby approves the material and form of certain stamping equipment for use by inspectors of weights and measures when applying the prescribed stamp to equipment passed as fit for use for trade (the Weights and Measures (Prescribed Stamp) Regulations 1968, SI 1968 No 1615 as amended).

Nothing in this approval should be construed as overriding, amending or deferring any safety regulations or requirements issued in accordance with the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

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**Department of Trade & Industry**

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**SPECIFICATION FOR STAMPING EQUIPMENT**

**1 GENERAL**

This approval relates to certain stamping equipment only, as described below. Under the provisions of section 94 of the Weights and Measures Act 1985 the stamp may be applied by impressing, casting, engraving, etching, branding, or otherwise howsoever.

**2 IMPRESSING EQUIPMENT**

2.1 Equipment for impressing the stamp shall take one of two forms, either

- a) a punch (or punches) incorporating the components of the stamp; or
- b) pliers or pincers for impressing the components of the stamp on both sides of a suitable seal.

Either form may be operated manually or by means of a manual, hydraulic or pneumatic press.

2.2 Such equipment shall be of suitable metal.

**3 ENGRAVING EQUIPMENT**

3.1 Equipment for engraving the stamp shall take one of two forms, either

- a rotary cutters; or
- b vibrating equipment.

**4 SANDBLASTING EQUIPMENT**

4.1 Equipment for applying the stamp by sandblasting shall take the form of a machine to direct a stream of abrasive particles through a mask.

4.2 The particles shall be either of carborundum or other grit and the mask shall be of suitable metal or rubber.

**5 ETCHING EQUIPMENT**

5.1 Equipment for etching the stamp shall consist of wax and a stencil together with either:

- a) common salt and nitric acid; or

- b) hydrofluoric acid.

5.2 Alternatively etching may be by processes using electro-chemical, electro-erosion or laser etching using vector scanning or a stencil mask.

## **6 BRANDING EQUIPMENT**

6.1 Equipment for branding the stamp shall take one of the following forms:

- a) an 'iron' heated before use by an external source;

or

- b) an 'iron' heated internally before or during use by electricity or by gas.

6.2 Such equipment shall be of suitable metal.

## **7 PRINTING EQUIPMENT**

7.1 Equipment for printing of the stamp shall be of form employing the process of offset gravure using inks or dyes, provided that the action of the solvents used in the process is such as to etch the surface to produce a clear and durable stamp.