

**SPECIFICATION
FOR
LOCAL STANDARDS
OF
LENGTH
FLEXIBLE LINE STANDARDS**

In accordance with the provisions of section 4(2) of the Weights and Measures Act 1985, the Secretary of State hereby approves the material and form of local standards of length conforming with this specification.

This specification supersedes A3 (October 1912) and WM 246 (March 1971), but any local standard, in respect of which a certificate has been issued under section 4(4), will continue to be accepted for re-certification until further notice.

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Department of Trade & Industry

STD 5243

October 1986

SPECIFICATION FOR LOCAL STANDARDS OF LENGTH

FLEXIBLE LINE STANDARDS

NOMINAL LENGTHS

1 Local standard flexible line measures shall have nominal lengths of:

Imperial: 10, 20, 33, 50, 66 or 100 feet

Metric : 5, 10, 20, 30 or 50 metres.

MATERIAL

2 The measures shall be of steel, suitably protected to prevent corrosion, or invar.

CONSTRUCTION

3 The measures shall be of flat steel tape, not less than 12 mm wide and 0.15 mm thick. When stretched on a flat surface, the edges of the tape shall be practically straight and parallel.

The measure shall be housed in a suitable case or frame with a winding handle.

GRADUATION AND NUMBERING

4 The nominal length shall be between two scale marks. The handle or ring must not form part of the nominal length. All scale marks shall be clear, permanent, straight, at right angles to the tape, all of the same thickness and constant throughout their length. Scale marks may be produced by engraving, etching or printing. The scale marks shall be in a contrasting colour to the background of the tape.

- (a) In the case of the printed tapes, the printing shall be protected by a clear plastic film or clear varnish.
- (b) The lengths of the scale marks may vary to indicate different scale intervals.
- (c) The thickness of the scale marks shall not exceed 0.5 mm.
- (d) Metric tape measures shall be graduated to allow any length up to the nominal length to be measured to a millimetre. The tape may be graduated in millimetres throughout its length, or part of the tape may be more finely graduated, eg

0	-	1 m graduated in mm
1m	-	end graduated in m
- (e) Imperial tape measures shall be graduated to allow any length up to the nominal length to be measured to one sixteenth of an inch. The tape may be graduated in sixteenths of an inch throughout its length, or part of the tape may be more finely graduated, eg

0	-	1 ft graduated in $\frac{1}{16}$ in
1 ft	-	end graduated in ft
- (f) The numbering may be consecutive or repetitive and may be in different colours to indicate different scale intervals.

INSCRIPTIONS

- 5 The following shall be marked on the measure:
- (a) The nominal length
 - (b) The name of the local authority
 - (c) The serial number
 - (d) The reference temperature: 20 °C
 - (e) The tension
 - (f) The maker's or supplier's name or trade mark.

LIMITS OF ERROR

6 The permissible limits of errors in length at 20 °C under the appropriate tension on a flat surface shall not exceed the amount specified in Regulations made under section 4(5) of the Weights and Measures Act 1985, as shown below.

Metric: Limits of error (\pm)
0.1 mm plus 0.1 mm per metre of length

Imperial: Limits of error (\pm)
0.004 in plus 0.004 in per yard of length.