

**LAW OF WEIGHTS AND  
MEASURES OF NOV. 16TH,  
1895 AND REGULATIONS  
OF THE SAME**

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Law of Weights and Measures of Nov. 16th, 1895 and Regulations of the Same by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**LAW OF WEIGHTS AND  
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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
FOMENTO, COLONIZATION AND INDUSTRY

MEXICO.

The President of the Republic has been pleased to address to me the following Decree:

*"PORFIRO DIAZ, Constitutional President of the United Mexican States, to the inhabitants thereof know yee:*

That the Congress of the Union has been pleased to decree as follows:  
The Congress of the United Mexican States decrees:

## Law of Weights and Measures.

### CHAPTER I.

#### OF THE SYSTEM AND ITS UNITS.

Art. 1. The System of weights and measures already established, which is derived from the National Standards of length and weight and from the second of average time, constitutes the National System of Weights and Measures and is the only legal one whose use is binding in the United Mexican States.

Art. 2. The fundamental units of that system are as follows:

I. The unit of length denominated Metre, is equal to the length of the Metre which has been recognized and adopted as the International prototype.

II. The unit of weight denominated kilogram, is equal in weight to that of the kilogram which has been recognized and adopted as the International prototype of weight.

III. The unit of time is the second of mean time.

Art. 3. The Department of Fomento will designate the derived units which are dedicated to common use, specifying the conditions which they must comply with.

It is also authorized to designate the derived units of the National System of Weights and Measures which are not in common use.

## CHAPTER II.

### NATIONAL STANDARDS.

Art. 4. The national standard of length consists of the prototype metre No. 25, made of an alloy of platinum and irridium with a cross section of X which was assigned by the International Committee of Weights and Measures to the Mexican Government, tested in the International Office of the same on the 28th of September 1889 and deposited in the Office of Weights and Measures of the Department of Fomento, on the 20th. of August 1900.

Art. 5. The National standard of weight consists of the prototype kilogram No. 21, made of an alloy of platinum and irridium, of cylindrical form, with a height equal to its diameter, which was assigned by the International Committee of Weights and Measures to the Mexican Government, was tested in the International Office of the same on the 7th. of January 1889 and deposited in the Office of Weights and Measures of the Department of Fomento on the 20th of August 1900.

## CHAPTER III.

### OF THE EXTENSION AND PRESERVATION OF THE SYSTEM

Art. 6. For the preservation and maintenance of the system, there shall be an inspecting office of the first class, those which may be necessary of the second class and the auxiliary offices which may be established in accordance with Art. 11.

Art. 7. The first class inspecting office shall be that of Weights and Measures in the Department of Fomento, in which the national standards of length and weight mentioned in Articles 4 and 5, as well as the new ones which the Federal Government may acquire, shall be preserved with all due precautions.

Art. 8. The metres and kilograms employed in the ordinary course of business by the Office of Weights and measures shall be directly

compared with the national standards and will constitute the second class standards.

Art. 9. The Department of Fomento will establish a second class inspecting office in the Capital of each State as well as in those other towns whose commercial importance may justify it. Such office will be furnished with the collection of standards and balances, which is required by the Regulations under the present law. The standards of these offices, which are denominated third class, will be compared by the Office of Weights and Measures with the second class standards.

Art. 10. The officers in charge of the second class offices will compare the weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring that are used in trade. The same employees will have under their charge, the inspection and supervision of the service of weights and measures in those cities in which their offices may be established.

Art. 11. In those towns in which there is no second class office, the Department of Fomento may charge the municipal corporations with the periodical inspection of the weights, measures and instruments for weighing and measuring, as well as the inspection and supervision of the service of weights and measures. The municipal corporations to whom such powers are delegated, shall be considered auxiliary offices and will be strictly subject to the requisites and conditions which are specified in the Regulations under the present law. In such case, the Corporations themselves will cover the expenses and collect the dues for the inspection and the fines which may be levied.

Art. 12. The Regulations under this law shall prescribe the rules for the verification of the weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring; the charges which may be collected for those verifications, and shall specify the form under which the service of weights and measures shall be inspected.

Art. 13. The offices which may be established under the provisions of Art. 9 of the present law shall directly depend on the office of Weights and Measures of the Department of Fomento. The auxiliary offices which are referred to under Art. 11, shall likewise depend on that superior office, but only as far as regards the service of weights and measures.

Art. 14. The Executive of the Union will have power, whenever it considers such a measure expedient, and by agreement with the Governments of the different States, to leave under their charge, the establishment and maintenance of second class offices, in those places within their jurisdiction which may be designated by the Department of Fomento as well as the inspection and general supervision of the service of weights and measures, both in those places in which there may be a second class office established, as well as in other Municipalities, but without prejudice to the superior federal inspection. In such case the dues collected for inspection and the fines will enter into their respective Treasuries; but the working of the inspecting and auxiliary offices

will continue to be under the direct supervision of the Office of Weights and Measures.

Art. 15. The Department of Fomento will have power to give orders for direct inspection and verification to be made of the weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measurement in the offices, establishments or localities which it may consider desirable. This power is reserved even in those cases provided for under Arts. 11 and 14.

Art. 16. The marks to be employed for the purpose of authorizing the weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring shall be designated by the Department of Fomento in the Regulations under the present law. Of these marks, those which do not consist of numbers shall be made with the respective "Matrixes" which the Department will preserve under the custody of the Office of Weights and Measures.

#### CHAPTER IV.

##### PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF THE LAW AND ITS REGULATIONS.

Art. 17. Any officer whose duty it may be to place the marks on weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring, and who may do so with criminal intent, when, according to the Regulations under this law he should not mark them, because they do not comply with the provisions of the same, will render himself liable to a penalty of three years imprisonment and a fine of One Hundred Dollars or the corresponding further detention.

Art. 18. The following persons will be punished with, imprisonment for three years:

I. Those who stamp the legal marks on the weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring, when not duly authorized for that purpose.

II. Those who knowingly sell or circulate false marks or weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring, which are branded as mentioned in Art. 17 and in Sec. I of this Article or which may carry false brands.

Art. 19. The other infractions which may give rise to criminal liability shall be penalized in accordance with the Penal Code of the Federal District, without prejudice to the administrative penalties which are specified under the Regulations.

Art. 20. The infractions of the present law and its Regulations which are not liable to criminal prosecution shall be administratively punished with fines of twenty-five cents to Five Hundred Dollars or the corresponding imprisonment.

Art. 21. The weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring which are employed in mercantile transactions and do not fulfill the requisites provided under this Law or its Regulations shall be inutilized in those cases which the latter may specify.



## CHAPTER V.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Art. 22. The legal equivalents between the units of the national system of weights and measures now in force and those of the system which was employed in the Republic before the 16th of September 1896 shall be those set forth in the tables already published by the Department of Fomento and which will be annexed to the Regulations under this Law.

Art. 23. The teaching of the national system of weights and measures will continue to be obligatory in all public schools, whether of an official or private character.

Art. 24. The inspection of weights, measures and instruments for weighing or measuring will be charged for. The proceeds of these charges and of the fines which may be imposed for infringements, shall be turned over to the Federal Treasury, except in those cases specified under Arts. 11 and 14 of the present Law.

Art. 25. The Executive will issue Regulations under this Law as well as all the orders that may be necessary for its exact fulfilment.

Art. 26. All laws and rulings which may have been previously enacted with regard to weights and measures are hereby repealed.

## TRANSITORY.

This Law will come into force from and after the 1st. of December of the present year.—*Trinidad García*, President of the Deputies.—*A. Valdizieso*, Vice-President of the Senate.—*Lorenzo Elizaga*, Secretary of the Deputies.—*A. Castañares*, Secretary of the Senate.

And therefore I order that it be printed, published, circulated and duly complied with.

Given in the Palace of the Executive of the Union on the 6th. day of June, 1905.—*Porfirio Díaz*.

To the Engineer Blas Escontria, Secretary of State and of the Department of Fomento, Colonization and Industry. >

And I communicate the same to you for your information and other purposes.

Mexico 6th. of June 1905.

*Escontria.*

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## Department of Fomento, Colonization and Industry.

### MEXICO.

The president of the Republic has been pleased to address to me the following decree:

*"PORFIRIO DIAZ, Constitutional President of the United Mexican States to the inhabitants thereof, know ye:*

That under the Constitutional powers of the Executive and in accordance with the provisions of Art. 25 of the Law of the 6th. of June of this year relative to Weights and Measures, I have seen fit to issue the following.

### Regulations of the Law of Weights and Measures of the 6th. June 1895.

#### CHAPTER I.

##### OF THE UNITS OF THE SYSTEM.

Art. 1. The names and values of the units and measures of length, area, volume, capacity, weight, power, electricity and light are the following:

##### I.—UNITS OF LENGTH

Names.	Values.	Abbreviations.
Kilometre	1000 metres	Km.
Hectometre	100 "	Hm.
Decametre	10 "	Dam.
Metre	Fundamental unit	m.
Decimetre	0.1 metre	Dm.
Centimetre	0.01 "	Cm.
Milimetre	0.001 "	Mm.