



55th CIML Meeting - Working Document

Addendum

55 CIML Addendum 2.2

(Replaces Addendum 1.2 dated 2020-08-17)

2020-09-28

Agenda item 2: Opening remarks and meeting protocol

Agenda item 2.2: Application of conditions for CIML voting



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(Replaces Addendum 1.2 dated 2020-08-17)

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55th CIML Meeting – Item 2.2

Application of conditions for CIML voting

1 Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that it is necessary for the OIML, as well as for other international organisations, to take decisions during online meetings in order to maintain its capacity to act. This applies in particular to the annual meetings of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (hereafter referred to as “CIML” or “Committee”). This year, for the first time, our organisation is forced to hold a CIML meeting online instead of a traditional meeting with physical attendance. No one can predict whether we will have to hold more CIML meetings online in the future. In any case, our organisation should be well prepared for this. Since the OIML Convention (OIML B 1 *Convention establishing an International Organisation of Legal Metrology*) does not provide explicit rules for the case of online meetings, a proposed solution based on the existing rules is presented below.

For decision-taking of the CIML, Article XVII of the OIML Convention covers two situations:

- decisions taken during a traditional physical meeting of the Committee (“in-meeting” conditions); and
- decisions taken between meetings of the Committee (“by correspondence” conditions).

The text of Article XVII of OIML B 1 is as follows:

“ ...

Decisions shall be valid only if the number of those present and represented be at least three-quarters of the number of persons designated as Members of the Committee and should they be supported by a minimum of four-fifths of the votes cast. The number of votes cast shall be at least four-fifths of the number of those present and represented at the session.

Abstentions, blank and null votes shall not be considered as votes cast.

Between sessions, and in certain special cases, the Committee may consult by correspondence.

Resolutions adopted in this way shall only be valid if all Members of the Committee shall have been called upon to give their opinions and if the resolutions shall have been approved unanimously by all those voting, on condition that the number of votes cast be at least two-thirds of the number of designated Members.

Abstentions, blank and null votes shall not be considered as votes cast. Failure to reply within the time-limit specified by the President shall be considered as an abstention.”



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The conditions in paragraphs one and two above are applied using roll calls and by counting the numbers of votes on resolutions during CIML meetings.

The conditions in paragraphs three, four and five above were used in the past for any decisions taken by postal correspondence, and are currently used for the Direct CIML online approval of OIML publications.

2 Application to online CIML meetings

Normally, during an in-person meeting, the CIML approves in the order of 30 resolutions. As the work of our organisation, be it the technical work, OIML-CS activities, CEEMS activities, or other activities, very much depends on decisions and resolutions taken by the CIML, it is obvious that appropriate voting rules are needed for the CIML to take decisions during an online meeting.

It is further obvious that the “by correspondence” conditions are not appropriate for decisions taken at an online CIML meeting for two reasons:

- the level of response to online voting has been poor, and the requirement for two-thirds of CIML Members to cast a vote is often not met; and
- if there is one negative vote, the vote does not pass, and the decision is postponed until the next traditional physical meeting of the CIML.

On the other hand the “in-meeting” conditions seem to be appropriate for decision-taking during online CIML meetings, especially if one regards the possibility of using modern online video technology, where it is possible for all agenda items to be fully discussed, and for the wording of appropriate resolutions to be proposed, which can then be voted on using secure online tools during the online meeting.

At the request of the CIML President the BIML has investigated different options for secure online voting tools, which will be presented and discussed at the online 55th CIML Meeting.



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3 Proposed solution

In view of the above, it is proposed that the “in-meeting” conditions of Article XVII of the OIML Convention shall be used also for online voting on decisions and resolutions discussed during the online CIML meeting, including decisions on the approval of publications.

This will require a CIML resolution to be taken, and the following draft text is proposed:

Draft resolution 2020/xx

The Committee,

Noting the provisions for its decisions set out in Article XVII of OIML B 1 *Convention establishing an International Organisation of Legal Metrology*,

Considering the need to facilitate the work of the Committee when online CIML meetings are held,

Decides that the “in-meeting” conditions for Committee decisions, given in paragraphs two and three of Article XVII of OIML B 1, shall be used in the case of online voting on subjects which have been discussed at an online CIML meeting.

The BIML has developed a secure voting tool on the OIML website for this purpose.

In addition, the BIML has developed a secure anonymous voting tool on the OIML website to provide an online alternative to the secret ballots taken on appointments at in-person CIML meetings.

Both these secure voting tools will be explained during the online 55th CIML Meeting.

Draft resolution 2020/xx

The Committee,

Noting the provisions for its decisions set out in Article XVII of OIML B 1 *Convention establishing an International Organisation of Legal Metrology*,

Considering the need to facilitate the work of the Committee when online CIML meetings are held,

Approves the use of the secure voting tools on the OIML website for CIML resolutions and for secret ballots on appointments.

At the online 55th CIML Meeting, these two proposals will be explained to CIML Members, and there will be an opportunity for discussion.

For the approval of these two draft resolutions it is proposed to apply the existing “by correspondence” conditions in Article XVII of the OIML Convention. Two separate “direct CIML online approvals” will be organised for this purpose following the online 55th CIML Meeting. The draft resolutions will be approved if at least two-thirds of CIML Members have cast a vote, and if they are supported unanimously by those casting a vote.

If these two “direct CIML online approvals” are successful and the resolutions are passed, it is suggested that they form the basis for online voting on all the remaining draft resolutions from the online 55th CIML Meeting.