

Update on Revision of the VIM

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Abstract

Abstract: The Joint Committee for Guides on Metrology (JCGM), coordinated through the Bureau Internationale des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), officially came into existence in early 1997 as an outgrowth of an earlier ISO Technical Advisory Group 4 (TAG 4) on Metrology. The main function of the JCGM is to develop metrological guides for international use, in particular, to maintain and revise as necessary the Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) ISO, 1993 (corrected and reprinted 1995), and the International Vocabulary of Basic and General Terms in Metrology (VIM) ISO, 1993. The eight international organizations listed below are members of the JCGM, and A. Wallard, Director of the BIPM, is Chairman of the JCGM. The maintenance and revision of the VIM is the responsibility of WG2, the Convener of which is P. Giacomo, BIPM (retired, ex-Director).

The members of the JCGM are the BIPM, IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission), IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), ILAC (International Organization for Laboratory Accreditation), ISO (International Organization for Standardization), IUPAC (International Organization of Pure and Applied Chemistry), IUPAP (International Organization of Pure and Applied Physics), and OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology).

The JCGM WG2 ('VIM Committee') prepared a draft third edition of the VIM (VIM3) and circulated it for international comment. Over one hundred pages of comments resulted, including those from NCSLI (through ANSI). These comments have been discussed at VIM Committee meetings in 2005 and 2006, and a new draft is planned to be circulated to the eight co-sponsoring organizations, for final editorial comments, around the time of the 2006 NCSLI meeting.

This presentation will provide an overview of the status of the VIM3 draft, along with some of the more salient issues that were encountered. Also to be discussed is recent activity of the JCGM concerning means of publishing both VIM3 and other JCGM-related documents.

Key Words: vocabulary, measurement, metrology

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