

LEGAL METROLOGY

MODEL APPROVAL — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Weights & Measures Compliance Reference — India

What is Legal Metrology Model Approval?

Model Approval is the regulatory approval process applicable to specified weights and measures. It is intended to establish that a model meets the applicable prescribed standards and requirements before it is manufactured, imported or otherwise used in circumstances covered by the law and rules.

Is Model Approval required for every weighing or measuring instrument?

No. Applicability depends on the type and category of the weight or measure and the requirements applicable to that instrument. The current rules and competent authority requirements should be checked for the particular product.

Who can apply for Model Approval?

Depending on the applicable procedure, an eligible manufacturer, importer or other prescribed applicant may apply. The applicant should provide accurate business, manufacturer and product information and satisfy the applicable technical requirements.

What documents are generally required?

Typical supporting documents can include applicant details, manufacturer information, model/type details, technical specifications, drawings, photographs, test reports, declarations and other documents prescribed for the particular instrument. The exact list may vary.

What technical details should be prepared?

Prepare the instrument's model/type designation, capacity or measuring range, units, accuracy or class where applicable, construction details, operating characteristics, drawings, photographs and relevant technical or testing information.

Is testing required?

Testing may be required for applicable instruments as part of the approval process. The required tests and supporting reports depend on the instrument and the applicable procedure.

What happens after an application is submitted?

The competent authority or designated process may review the application and supporting material and may raise observations or require additional information/testing. Approval is issued only after the applicable requirements are satisfied.

Does Model Approval replace verification and stamping?

No. Model Approval and subsequent verification/stamping are distinct compliance requirements where each is applicable. An approved model may still need verification and stamping before prescribed commercial use.

Can an approved model be modified?

Changes to design, construction, components, software or other characteristics may affect the approved model. Before making material changes, determine whether amendment, additional testing or fresh approval is required.

What markings may be required?

Specified instruments may need prescribed identification, approval and other statutory markings. The markings should correspond with the approved model and remain durable and legible.

What about imported weighing or measuring instruments?

Importers should determine whether Model Approval applies and should maintain appropriate import, manufacturer and product records. Additional Legal Metrology requirements may apply before sale or commercial use.

How long does Model Approval take?

Processing time depends on the instrument, completeness of documents, testing requirements, authority workload and any observations or deficiencies. A fixed time should not be assumed without checking the current procedure.

Are fees applicable?

Fees may apply depending on the relevant application and authority. Current fee schedules should be confirmed before submission.

Does the procedure differ by State?

Administrative procedures, portals, forms, fees and local requirements can vary. The applicable central rules and the requirements of the competent Legal Metrology authority should both be considered.

What records should a business retain?

Keep the application, approval, technical documents, test reports, product specifications, correspondence, import records where relevant, verification/stamping records and evidence of compliance in an organised and traceable file.

Can Equal Consultancy Services assist with Model Approval compliance?

Equal Consultancy Services can provide professional compliance support such as requirement identification, document preparation, application coordination and regulatory follow-up. The final approval is issued by the competent authority, not by a consultant.

Equal Consultancy Services

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Disclaimer: This FAQ is a general informational reference and is not an official government publication or Model Approval certificate. Exact applicability, forms, testing, fees, documents and procedures can change and depend on the instrument and competent authority. Verify current requirements before filing.