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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

**Tolerances permitted for the accuracy of
measurements of products (including
prepackaged products) in terms of legal
metrology legislation**

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Table of changes

Change No.	Date	Scope
Amdt 1	2008	Amended to update the foreword, to add an introductory paragraph to the normative references clause (clause 2), to change requirements in the subclauses on prepackages made up for sale on the retail premises from which they are sold (4.3), prepackages other than those made up for sale on the retail premises from which they are sold using a suitable instrument (4.5), and prepackaged products with special allowances for loss of quantity (4.6), to change the titles of two clauses in the annex on test procedures for the determination of the actual quantity of frozen products with added water or glazed products (clause D.3 and D.5), and to add a new informative annex on guidelines for application of tolerable deficiencies with respect to measurement of products at the time of sale or when making up prepackages (annex F).
Amdt 2	2011	Amended to move reference to legislation to the foreword, to update the requirements for accuracy of measurement and to update the test procedure in annex D.

Foreword

This South African standard was approved by National Committee SABS SC 70D, *Legal metrology – Sale of goods*, in accordance with procedures of the SABS Standards Division, in compliance with annex 3 of the WTO/TBT agreement.

This document was published in September 2011.

This document supersedes SANS 458:2008 (edition 1.1).

A vertical line in the margin shows where the text has been technically modified by amendment No. 2.

Reference is made to "legal metrology legislation" in the **title**, in **clause 1**, in **3.6**, **4.1.1**, **4.1.2**, **4.2.1**, **4.5.1** and **5.2.1**, and to other applicable legislation in **4.4(a)**, **(d)** and **(e)**, **4.9** and **4.10.2** and the note to **F.4.2**. In South Africa, this means the Trade Metrology Act, 1973 (Act No. 77 of 1973) (as amended from time to time) and the Regulations promulgated in terms of the Act, and any other applicable legislation in South Africa. **Amdt 1; amdt 2**

Annexes A, B, C and D form an integral part of this standard. Annexes E and F are for information only. **Amdt 1**

Introduction

This standard covers requirements normally regulated by legal metrology legislation for the accuracy of measurements applicable to service delivery or applicable when goods are measured for sale. The standard is not concerned with other regulations such as those pertaining to tolerances for specified ingredients. The requirements in this standard are equivalent to those of SADCMEEL Document 4 which is based on the requirements of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), Recommendation R 87, *Quantity of product in prepackages*.

Included in the standard are tolerance and related requirements, including inspection methods, for all measurements, which reflect the needs of legal metrology authorities within the SADC region. The standard contains a complete set of requirements that covers all types of measurement irrespective of their application in the market place or the place or time of measurement.

South African industry and consumer organizations were consulted for input into the SADCMEEL document, which was drafted with the aim of harmonizing technical regulations pertaining to the accuracy of legal measurements and the removal of barriers to trade within the SADC region, as required by the SADC Protocol on Trade.

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Tolerances permitted for the accuracy of measurements of products (including prepackaged products) in terms of legal metrology legislation

1 Scope

This standard specifies legal metrology requirements for

- a) the accuracy of measurements regulated by legal metrology legislation (see foreword) including the measurement of goods when prepackaged or at the time of sale in constant or random (non-constant) nominal quantities of mass, volume, linear measure, area, or count;
- b) sampling plans and procedures for use by legal metrology officials in verifying the quantity of product in prepackages;

NOTE The sampling plans are not suitable for use in the quantity control processes of packers.

- c) examination of the quantity of product in prepackages including the determination of average tare masses, the drained quantity of products in a liquid medium, and the actual quantity of frozen products; and
- d) special conditions with regard to products that might lose moisture (desiccating) after packing and foodstuff in a liquid medium that is not intended to be consumed.

NOTE The requirements in this standard are based on the international recommendations specified in OIML R 87 and are applicable in the SADC region. Packers for export outside the SADC region are advised to familiarize themselves with the requirements of the country of intended export.

2 Normative references

The following referenced document is indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. Information on currently valid national and international standards can be obtained by the SABS Standards Division. **Amdt 1**

OIML R 87, *Quantity of product in prepackages*.

3 Terminology

3.1

actual quantity

quantity of product that a prepackage contains as determined by measurement carried out by legal metrology officials