

OIML-CS EVENTS

III International Congress
on legal metrologyBogota, Colombia
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IAN DUNMILL, BIML

The importance of metrological control and its effects on industry, commerce and consumers, was the central theme of the Third International Congress of Legal Metrology and OIML seminar organized by the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC), the Colombian national authority for legal metrology.

Superintendent Andrés Barreto González highlighted the fact that it had been seven years since Colombia had joined the OIML, and this has allowed the country to reach high standards in the quality control of measurement results. He also highlighted the impact of legal metrology on the daily lives of consumers, which is why the SIC monitors standards to protect transport, the environment, international trade, the use of infrastructure, the payment of taxes and other issues related to legality.

Recent figures for the SIC show that between 2018 and 2019, the Superintendence has verified more than 200 truck scales, 7 000 fuel pumps, and more than 10 000 scales used in commercial transactions. This control even reinforces the fight against smuggling in Colombia, since surveillance is carried out on scales used to weigh maritime containers entering the country.

Legal metrology benefits both consumers and companies, and proof of this is that the SIC has managed to solve its limitations in the regulation of scales, taximeters and alcohol sensors, under international standards, complying with all standards for technical regulation of Colombia. Proof of this is that the control of truck scales allowed the Superintendence of Transportation to impose fines of 11 billion pesos on truck drivers for excess cargo in 2018.

The group of international speakers who participated in the congress included Ian Dunmill, Assistant

Director at the BIML, who shared the experience in different countries on the metrological control of truck scales including seaports in support of the SOLAS regulations on container weighing. Cock Oosterman, Chair of the Management Committee for the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) explained the benefits of participation in this system. Argentina reported benefits for farmers of more than 100 million USD per year in their country, and Brazil reported that when combatting fuel dispenser fraud, organized crime is fought because this activity is associated with drug trafficking and money laundering.

Spain and South Africa described their efforts to efficiently control the problems of forged certificates and smuggling of equipment, thus ensuring compliance with requirements. Together with this experience, the creation of a certificate security seal was highlighted, which Argentina recently implemented.

Finally, Colombia presented the evolution of legal metrology in the country, highlighting the fact that from 2011 to 2014, the SIC became a significant presence in the national territory, including in those municipalities where control was sporadic because not all service stations were verified and shops were not visited. However, in 2015, the National Network for Consumer Protection (RNPC) was created to decentralize metrological control across the country and to exercise this surveillance with the support of mayors.

The Congress also included a workshop on the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS) entitled *Promoting Global Harmonization for Measuring Instruments*, which was conducted by Ian Dunmill and Cock Oosterman, who explained the structure and benefits of the OIML-CS and how to participate in it. There was a very high level of active participation from manufacturers and regulators and verification officers present. ■



Speakers at the Third International Congress of Legal Metrology and OIML seminar

