



States of
Guernsey

TRADING STANDARDS
CONSULTATION: WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES LAW
PUBLIC REPORT



Trading Standards

States of Guernsey

14/05/18

Introduction

Between 19th February and 30th March 2018 Guernsey Trading Standards consulted with the public and businesses on a range of proposals to modernise the weights and measures legislation which applies in Guernsey and Alderney.

The consultation covered three main areas:

1. Deregulation of Prescribed Quantities
2. Modernisation of the Schedules in the Weights and Measures Law
3. Definitions of intoxicating liquor to achieve consistency with Guernsey Customs and Excise legislation.

The consultation was publicised through the States of Guernsey website, the media, on social media and directly by email contact with the business community and other organisations.

A total of 232 people replied to the online questionnaire (209 consumers, 16 businesses, 7 others). Analysis of the results will inform the drafting of amendment legislation which will be brought to the States in due course. A summary of the responses is given in Table 1.

Consultation Outcomes

1. **Deregulation of Prescribed Quantities:** There was strong agreement with the proposals to deregulate prescribed quantities, including the relaxation of rules controlling the sale of unwrapped and prepacked bread, and the changes to the ranges in which prepacked wines and spirits can be packed.
2. **Modernisation of the Schedules in the Weights and Measures Law to reflect changes in trade practices and achieve comparability with UK legislation:** There was agreement with the proposals for the addition of metric quantities to the weights and measures schedules to bring them up to date, for broadening the definition of countable produce and for herbs to be sold by weight, number or the bunch.
3. **Definitions of intoxicating liquor to achieve consistency with Guernsey Customs and Excise legislation:** There was a mix of views among businesses on this question. 5 out of 9 respondents agreed with the proposal, while 2 out of 9 disagreed. 2 out of 9 had no opinion. The same two respondents felt the new definitions would cause problems. The other changes to the way wine and spirits are packaged or sold received widespread approval.



4. Other subjects consulted on:

(i) The introduction of 2/3 pint as a legal measure was the only area consulted on where the response was not in favour of the proposal.

(ii) There was strong agreement that the introduction of a specific offence for not following the rules on documentation when delivering sand or ballast should be considered, and also that the law should be amended to allow the use of electronic delivery documents.

(iii) For the questions dealing with the proposed changes relating to products such as soaps, cosmetic products and aerosols, there was strong agreement from consumers for the changes, while the majority of businesses expressed no opinion.

Conclusion:

The views expressed will help us make informed decisions when preparing amendment legislation in the future.

Trading Standards would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the consultation questionnaire.

Table 1: Results of Consultation on Weights and Measures Law.

Note: Where fewer than 30 responses have been received to a question, the results are presented as a fraction, e.g. 2/7 (two out of 7 total responses), as this is more meaningful when dealing with small sample sizes.

Proposal	In favour	Not in favour	No opinion
Removal of Prescribed Quantities:	83%	10%	7%
Sale of bread	88%	8%	4%
Definitions of Intoxicating Liquor	5/9	2/9	2/9
Introduction of 2/3pt as legal measure	23%	53%	23%
Deregulation of sale of 187ml bottles of wine	74%	11%	15%
Amended ranges of pre-packed wine and spirit drinks	59%	11%	31%
Deregulation of sale of duty free intoxicating liquor outside Bailiwick/EU	5/7	0/7	2/7
Introduction of metric quantities to the Law	68% (foresee no problems)	16% (foresee problems likely)	16%
Redefinition of Countable Produce	61% (foresee no problems)	11% (foresee problems likely)	28%
Sale of Herbs	75%	10%	15%
Introduction of new documentation offence when transporting sand or ballast	61%	22%	17%
Electronic delivery documents	83%	8%	9%
Sale of solid fuel	2/6	1/6	3/6
Addition of metric equivalents to Schedules	3/7	2/7	2/7
Repeal of parts of Schedule 7 dealing with perfumery etc.	1/6	1/6	4/6
Quantity marking of cosmetic products	78%	8%	14%
Application of Part VII to soap which is not a cosmetic product	1/7	1/7	5/7
Introduce metric equivalents to Schedule 7	2/6	1/6	3/6
Changes to aerosol marking	1/7	1/7	5/7