

**METRIC TRANSITION PLAN
(IMPLEMENTATION AND GUIDANCE)**

1. REASONS FOR ISSUE

a. To change the functional number of VA Directive 0010, Metric Transition Plan to VA Directive 0100, Metric Transition Plan.

b. To revise/update Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Directive 0010, Metric Transition Plan dated March 8, 1996. This revision/update is in accordance with the VA Directives Management System (DMS) which requires reviewing, updating, or certifying all directives and handbooks every 3 years.

c. To comply with The Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-168); The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 100-418, Section 5164), dated August 23, 1988, which amended the Metric Conversion Act of 1975, the Act; and Executive Order 12770, Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs, dated July 25, 1991.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS/MAJOR CHANGES. This directive provides policy and delegates responsibilities for the metric system of measurement within VA. There are no major changes in the existing VA metric policy.

3. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE. Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management (90).

4. RELATED HANDBOOK. VA Handbook 0100, Metric Transition Plan (Implementation Procedures).

5. RESCISSION. VA Directive 0010, Metric Transition Plan (Implementation and Guidance) dated March 8, 1996.

CERTIFIED BY:

**BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:**

/s/
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Information and Technology

/s/
Edward A. Powell, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
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METRIC TRANSITION PLAN (IMPLEMENTATION AND GUIDANCE)

1. PURPOSE

a. To provide policy and assign responsibilities for implementing the metric system of measurement within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This directive provides acquisition and materiel management policies required to implement or supplement the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (Public Law 98-168); the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 100-418); and Executive Order 12770, Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs.

b. On August 23, 1988, the President signed the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-418, Section 5164) which amended the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 to declare:

(1) That the metric system of measurement is the preferred system of weights and measures for U.S. trade and commerce.

(2) That each Federal agency, to the extent economically feasible by the end of Fiscal Year 1992, use the metric system of measurement in its procurements, grants, and other business-related activities (unless metric usage is impractical or would have an adverse impact on the market share of U.S. firms).

(3) That agencies seek ways to increase understanding of the metric system of measurement through educational information and guidance in Government publications.

(4). Executive Order 12770, Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs, dated July 1991, further emphasizes the intent of the law.

2. POLICY

a. Specific policy establishing the responsibility for the metric system of measurement within VA and reporting the status, projects, and barriers will be adhered to in accordance with and supplementing the Public Law, the Executive Order, and the Code of Federal Regulations.

b. The national policy on metric usage necessitated a significant broadening of the scope of our transition efforts. All procurements, grants, and business-related activities are affected. VA's efforts will be fully integrated with the efforts of the entire Government. In fact, because of our many responsibilities as a Government business manager, it is incumbent on VA to take a major role in metric transition. Therefore, both an integrated and local facility approach, according to particular needs and resources are required to implement metric policy.

c. To extend the completion date of transition.

(1) VA will continue to implement the metric system of measurement in a manner consistent with the Act.

(2) Each VA activity will complete full transitioning by the end of Fiscal Year 2005.

(3) VA will establish training plans and practices that increase employee awareness and understanding of metric system conversion. Personnel who are required to use metric measurement will receive specific training, as required. Each component or subordinate organization should determine the type and degree of training for their employees and obtain it through Government or local sources.

(4) VA will use the metric system of measurement in all its procurements. Planners will include use of the metric system of measurement in proposed acquisitions in accordance with 15 U.S.C.205 (b) and other Department plans and guidelines. All measurement-sensitive requirements will be stated in metric units. Specifications that identify measurement-sensitive requirements will be in metric units and require the use of metric products. Dual measurement, the metric measurement followed by the inch/pound measurement within parentheses, may be used during the transition period. Program offices that establish requirements for acquisitions should know if the supplying industry uses the metric system of measurement. Program offices should also know if industry has converted or is ready or willing to convert to using the metric system of measurements. Procurement offices should assist program offices in conducting market surveys.

3. REFERENCES

a. 41 CFR Chapter 101-29.102, Use of Metric System of Measurement in Federal Product Descriptions

b. Executive Order 12770, Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs, dated July 25, 1991

c. Federal Standard 376B (latest version)

d. Federal Standardization Handbook

e. Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-168) (15 U.S.C. 205a et seq.)

f. National Cemetery Administration Directive 3150, Metric Transition Plan and Policy, dated February 17, 1995

g. National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 811, Guide for the Use of the International System of Units (SI)

h. The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 100-418, Section 5164), dated August 23, 1988

- i. VA Circular 00-92-I 1, Metric Transition Plan and Policy, rescinded July 1, 1993
- j. VA Directive 7129, Federal Specification, Standards, and Commercial Item Descriptions
- k. Veterans Health Administration Directive 10-94-064, Metric Implementation (RCS 10-034), dated July 30, 1998