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# ADS Chapter 323

## Metric Specifications

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Functional Series 300 – Acquisition and Assistance  
ADS Chapter 323 – Metric Specifications  
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## ADS Chapter 323 – Metric Specifications

### 323.1 OVERVIEW

Effective Date: 07/16/2003

This chapter describes the policy directives and required procedures for furthering USAID's metric system policy. The objective of USAID's metric system policy is to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. industry by promoting the adoption of standards that facilitate the export of its products to international markets, where the metric system is virtually the universal standard.

### 323.2 PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Effective Date: 03/10/2020

- a. **All personnel generating specifications, quantitative data, or requirements for them** are responsible for employing or requiring the use of the metric system of measurement, to the maximum extent practical.
- b. The **Metric Executive** has the primary responsibility for the management of USAID's metric transition program, as specified in [E.O. 12770](#). The **Deputy Director for Policy, Evaluation, Transportation, Cost Audit, and Support in the Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA)** is the designated Metric Executive. In the absence of this individual, the Alternate Metric Executive (AME) performs this role. **The AME is the individual designated as acting for the Deputy Director during any absences.** In the absence of both of the above, this role is assumed by the individual who serves as the Deputy Director for Operations in M/OAA.
- c. The **USAID Metric Executive, the Contracting/Agreement Officer**, and the **USAID official who approves the procurement/assistance requirement** are authorized to waive the requirement for use of metric system units in quantitative data (see 323.3.3).
- d. The **Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)** must provide clearance before waivers to the requirement to use the metric system, based upon an adverse impact to U.S. firms, are approved.

### 323.3 POLICY DIRECTIVES AND REQUIRED PROCEDURES

#### 323.3.1 Requirement to Use the Metric System

Effective Date: 03/10/2020

In accordance with [Federal Standard 376B](#), the metric system of measurement must be used for specifications and quantitative data that are incorporated in or required by USAID-financed **acquisition and assistance**.

**323.3.1.1**      **Limitation on Use of the 100-Millimeter Building Module Standard**

Effective Date: 03/10/2020

In accordance with [61 FR 24761](#), unless the criteria below are met, the 100-millimeter building module standard must not be utilized.

Before the specification of modular construction products for USAID-funded projects in terms of the 100-millimeter building module standard, the personnel responsible for product specifications must conduct market research to determine the commercial availability of such products. These products must be specified in multiples of 100-millimeters, according to this metric building standard, only when:

- a. The product's application requires it to coordinate dimensionally into the 100-millimeter module;
- b. Market research demonstrates the modular product's commercial availability; and
- c. The product's total installed cost is reasonable.

**323.3.2**      **Transitional Use of Dual Units**

Effective Date: 07/16/2003

When the metric system is not the predominant measurement system for a particular application, specifications and quantitative data may be expressed in both the metric and the traditional equivalent units as long as the metric units are listed first. As the use of metric units approaches general acceptance for the application, the use of the traditional units must be discontinued.

**323.3.3**      **Waivers**

Effective Date: 03/10/2020

The requirement to use the metric system of measurement may be waived when the USAID Metric Executive, the Contracting/[Agreement](#) Officer, or the USAID official who approves the procurement/assistance requirement determines, in writing, that such usage is impractical or it is likely to cause U.S. firms to experience significant inefficiencies or the loss of markets.

The procedures specified in [AIDAR 711.002-70](#) must be followed when granting a waiver to the requirement to use the metric system.

**323.4**      **MANDATORY REFERENCES**

**323.4.1**      **External Mandatory References**

Effective Date: 12/28/2011

- a.      [Executive Order No. 12770 dated July 29, 1991](#)

- b. [Federal Agency Guidance for the Acquisition of Modular Metric Construction Products; Federal Register, May 16, 1996, 61 FR 24761](#)
- c. [Metric Conversion Act of 1975, as amended by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, section 5164. \(15 U.S.C. 205\)](#)

**323.4.2 Internal Mandatory References**

Effective Date: 03/10/2020

- a. [ADS 300, Agency Acquisition and Assistance \(A&A\) Planning](#)
- b. [AIDAR](#)
- c. [Federal Standard 376B, Preferred Metric Units for General Use by the Federal Government, January 27, 1993](#)

**323.5 ADDITIONAL HELP**

Effective Date: 05/21/2009

- a. [National Institute of Standards and Technology, Metric Program Home Page](#)

**323.6 DEFINITIONS**

Effective Date: 07/16/2003

The terms and definitions listed below have been incorporated into the ADS Glossary. See the [ADS Glossary](#) for all ADS terms and definitions.

**Alternate Metric Executive**

USAID's Alternate Metric Executive is the individual designated to perform the activities and assume the responsibilities of USAID's Metric Executive in their absence. The individual designated for this role is identified in Section **323.2. (Chapter 323)**

**business-related activities**

The use of measurement units in Agency programs and functions related to trade, industry, and commerce. (**Chapter 323**)

**Metric Executive**

USAID's Metric Executive is the individual designated to assume the responsibilities and perform the activities prescribed for this role in E. O. 12770 and in **ADS 323**. In their absence, the designated Alternate Metric Executive assumes this role. The individuals designated for these roles are identified in Section **323.2. (Chapter 323)**

**metric system**

The International System of Units (SI), as interpreted or modified for use in the United States by the Secretary of Commerce. It is currently issued by the General Services Administration as Federal Standard 376B, dated January 27, 1993. (**Chapter 323**)

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