

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2026) 1650

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2026/0310/BE

Notification of a draft text from a Member State

Notification – Notifikation – Notifizierung – Нотификация – Oznámení – Notifikation – Γνωστοποίηση – Notificación – Teavitamine – Ilmoitus – Obavijest – Bejelentés – Notifica – Pranešimas – Paziņojums – Notifika – Kennisgeving – Zawiadomienie – Notificação – Notificare – Oznámenie – Obvestilo – Anmälan – Fógra a thabhairt

Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délai - Kein Fristbeginn - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nezahajuje prodlení - Fristerne indledes ikke - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - No abre el plazo - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Ne otvara razdoblje kašnjenja - Nem nyitja meg a késésekét - Non fa decorrere la mora - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Atlikšanas laikposms nesākas - Ma jiftaħx il-perijodi ta' dewmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Não inicia o prazo - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nezačína oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Inleder ingen frist - Ní osclaíonn sé na moilleanna

MSG: 20261650.EN

1. MSG 001 IND 2026 0310 BE EN 19-06-2026 BE NOTIF

2. Belgium

3A. SPF Economie, PME, Classes moyennes et Energie

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4. 2026/0310/BE - I10 - Metrology

5. Royal Decree relating to measuring instruments intended for indicating the quantity during the when

placing on the market of certain liquid motor fuels and other liquid fuels.

6. A measuring instrument enabling the conversion of fuels measured by volume and sold in bulk to a volume at 15 °C.

7.

8. The draft royal decree replaces and repeals the Royal Decree of 2 March 2007 establishing specific rules regarding the indication of quantity when placing certain motor fuels and bulk other liquid fuels on the market. The list of motor fuels and other liquid fuels contained in the Royal Decree of 2 March 2007 no longer corresponds to the list of motor fuels and other liquid fuels authorised for use in our country (this list has recently been updated several times, particularly within the framework of the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the transition to alternative fuels). By changing the nature and physical characteristics of the liquid fuel, the physical parameters necessary for converting the volume to a volume corresponding to 15 °C also change. This draft Royal Decree therefore implements these technical changes.

This draft Royal Decree primarily includes functional and technical objectives that enable the conversion of temperature to a volume at 15 °C. The draft provides for the integration of a densimeter into the measuring instrument as an option, along with other technical or regulatory choices, such as the reference to the royal decrees concerning legal designations. Furthermore, the list of motor fuels and other liquid fuels is no longer included as in the amended decree of 2007.

9. This draft Royal Decree establishes the general obligation to determine the volume of a fuel marketed in bulk, if measured by volume, as a volume at 15 °C. The draft Royal Decree also aims to prescribe how the relevant physical characteristics of the fuel should be determined and entered into measuring instruments to ensure correct and reliable conversion to a volume corresponding to 15 °C and to verify the proper functioning of the measuring instruments in question. A cascading system provides for several methods to fulfil this requirement: The liquid measuring system is equipped with a densitometer. If an integrated densimeter is not available, the reference density used is that specified by the product standard or any relevant normative document applicable to the liquid fuel, as determined in the royal decrees concerning legal designations (and no longer in the annexes to the draft royal decree). In the absence of a reference value, the Metrology Service may establish one. Finally, in the absence of an integrated densimeter, the use of a reference density, and a reference value set by the Metrology Service, the volume is not converted. The technical provisions of the draft Royal Decree concern measuring instruments subject to the verification requirement in accordance with Article VIII.43 of the Code of Economic Law.

9a. The volume of a product depends on its temperature and coefficient of expansion. Therefore, in general, the effective quantity (number of molecules) in one litre of a product at a high temperature is less than the effective quantity of the same substance in one litre at a lower temperature.

Most fuels expand during heating, increasing their volume. For this reason, the volume of a quantity of liquid fuel is not a reproducible or comparable measurement, in the sense that the same quantity occupies a different volume at a different temperature. This creates a risk of unfair competition for products, in this case

other liquid fuels, that are marketed and invoiced by volume and at a unit price per volume (litre or cubic metre).

If the volume of a fuel measured at its current temperature at the time of transfer is converted each time into the volume that the same quantity of fuel would have if its temperature were 15 °C, it becomes easier to compare the volumes of different transactions. For this reason, the regulator previously decided to make it mandatory to indicate the volume of a fuel at 15 °C.

To display the delivered volume at 15 °C as the basis for calculating the price, for example after refuelling at a service station or during the filling of an underground domestic heating oil tank, the measuring system must have the necessary functionality to convert the raw measured value into a volume corresponding to 15 °C. To do this, the nature and certain relevant physical characteristics of the fuel being sold must be entered in advance as parameters into the measuring system.

9b. The requirement to express the invoiced volume as a volume at 15 °C for fuels sold and invoiced by volume has existed since 2001 (Royal Decree of 21 November 2001, establishing specific rules concerning the indication of quantity when placing certain fuels and bulk liquid fuels on the market, repealed and replaced by the Royal Decree of 2 March 2007, establishing specific rules regarding the indication of quantity when placing certain fuels and bulk other liquid fuels on the market). The replacement of the Royal Decree of 2 March 2007 is necessary because the list of fuels authorised for sale and use on the market has recently been updated several times, particularly in light of the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to alternative fuels. The list of fuels and combustibles contained in the Royal Decree of 2 March 2007, therefore no longer corresponds to the list of motor fuels and other liquid fuels authorised for use in our country.

The existing rules are therefore insufficient to protect the public interest objectives being pursued.

The draft Royal Decree provides for future-proof regulatory provisions by allowing flexibility in the cascading system to meet the general obligation of conversion to a 15 °C volume and by removing the exhaustive list of other liquid fuels.

9c. The draft Royal Decree establishes regulatory provisions proportionate to the public interest objective being pursued, by introducing a cascading mechanism that broadens the possibilities for regulatory compliance.

Furthermore, the establishment of a legal framework for the conversion of liquid fuel to a 15 °C volume guarantees the protection of economic operators, particularly in the context of commercial transactions. It ensures transparency and fair competition since any change in the nature and physical characteristics of the fuel also results in a variation of the physical parameters necessary for conversion to this reference volume. Most fuels expand during heating, increasing their volume. For this reason, the volume of a quantity of liquid fuel is not a reproducible or comparable measurement, in the sense that the same quantity occupies a different volume at a different temperature. This creates a risk of unfair competition for products, in this case other liquid fuels, that are marketed and invoiced by volume and at a unit price per volume (litre or cubic metre).

10. References to the basic texts:

11. No

12.

13. No

14. No

15. No

16.

TBT aspects: No

SPS aspects: No

European Commission

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