

metric system is the common unit of measure in France and use of non-approved units is prohibited except where required by the practices of international trade. The use of metric units is not required for imports and exports. However, where non-approved units are used in labelling, packaging, merchandising and advertising of goods for sale in France, equivalent approved metric units also must be shown and given equal prominence.

A compendium of the texts of French consumer protection laws is available from the Official Journal of the French Republic (no. 1462, 1979), 26 Rue Desaix 75732 Paris Cedex 15.

DOCUMENTATION: On commercial shipments to France necessary documents are commercial invoices, bills of lading (or airway bills) and in certain instances certificates of origin. In practice only the commercial invoice and customs declaration form are required for imports valued over 10,000 francs. Depending on nature of the goods special documents (sanitary health, phytosanitary) will also be necessary. Import licenses are required only for certain state traded goods and agricultural commodities.

Use of French on documents - Entries on documents for shipment - commercial invoices, bills of lading, certificates of origin, health certificates, insurance documents and packing list must be in the French language or accompanied by a French translation. However, the practice has been that customs documents are in French but documents which accompany