



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Fellow American:

This Nation is now embarked on a changeover to the metric system of measurement. When the President signed the Metric Conversion Act, on December 23, 1975, the United States adopted a policy of encouraging a voluntary changeover to the metric system of weights and measures.

The material included in this package is designed to help us make that changeover as easily and painlessly as possible. As you look over these brochures and charts, you will see that in our everyday lives we will be dealing with four basic units of measurement: meter, liter, gram and degree Celsius. All of these units may be equated or 'translated' to our customary units of measurement: yard, quart, ounce and degree Fahrenheit. The important thing to remember is that eventually translation will not be necessary, because metric is simply a new language for communicating measurement information. Thus, it is my hope that this package will help you learn to 'speak' metric with ease and fluency.

Since its establishment in 1901, the National Bureau of Standards has promoted accuracy and uniformity in our Nation's measurement system. The countless measurements made every day in our homes, offices and factories can be traced ultimately to precision standards maintained by NBS.

It has been increasingly evident over the past 30 years that the metric system is the measurement language preferred by most nations. Recognizing this fact, the Congress in 1968 asked the National Bureau of Standards to undertake a comprehensive study of the metric system and make recommendations for national policy. As a result of this NBS study, the Congress began the legislative process which culminated in the Metric Conversion Act of 1975.

I am confident that Americans will adapt quickly and easily to the metric system. This will bring us into closer harmony with the rest of the world and make it easier for us to do business with other nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Ambler".

Ernest Ambler
Acting Director



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Copies of the NBS Metric Kit and the enclosed items can be purchased prepaid from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 at the prices indicated. For additional single copies or questions about the unpriced items write to the National Bureau of Standards at the address given above.

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