

THE METRIC SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT

By Richard Sorokin

Before the metric system came into being in France there were a staggering 250,000 different units of measures. They differ not only every province, but in every district and almost every town. For commerce this was an impossible situation.

The scientist of France wanted to create a system that all could use based on the earth and science of its day. The basic unit, the meter, was to be one 10 millionth of the distance from the equator to the North Pole. It was measured and made out of titanium and is the standard for all meters worldwide. They also used the decimal system to divide all units. The meter has 100 centimeters in it and 1,000 millimeters in it. 10 millimeter equal one centimeter.

For weights they used water. One cubic centimeter of water at 4 degrees Centigrade is the weight of one gram. A kilogram is 1,000 grams. A liter is 1,000 cubic centimeters {1,000 cc}.

So we have a system of distance, weights and volume all using the decimal system. Every industrial nation, every high tech nation uses the metric system but the United States. Thomas Jefferson failed to convince congress of its benefits as has every reformer since. The metric system is creeping into the US. The global economy demands it. Over 95 percent of the world's population now officially uses the metric system.