Table of Contents

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Section 5.52. Linear Measures

A. Application

A.1. General. – This code applies to any linear measure or measure of length, whether flexible or inflexible, permanently installed or portable.

A.2. Additional Code Requirements. – In addition to the requirements of this code, Linear Measures shall meet the requirements of Section 1.10. General Code.

S. Specifications

S.1.M. Units. – A linear measure may be in total length, and the total length may be subdivided in any or all of the following:

(a) centimeters and tenths of the centimeter;

(b) meters; and

(c) multiples of meters.

A one-meter measure may be graduated, in addition, to show 0.1 m and multiples of 0.1 m subdivisions.

S.1. Units. – A linear measure may be in total length, and the total length may be subdivided in any or all of the following:

(a) inches and binary submultiples of the inch;

(b) feet;

(c) yards and multiples of yards.

A 1-yard measure may be graduated, in addition, to show ⅓ yd and ⅔ yd subdivisions. A flexible tape may be graduated in tenths or hundredths of a foot, or both tenths and hundredths of a foot. (Any other subdivisions are allowable only on measures of special purposes and when required for such purposes.)

S.2. Material.

S.2.1. Flexible Tape. – A flexible tape shall be made of metal.

S.2.2. End Measure. – If an end measure is made of material softer than brass, the ends of the measure shall be protected by brass (or other metal at least equally hard) securely attached.

S.3. Finish. – Measures shall be smoothly finished.

S.4. Design.

S.4.1. Rigid Measure. – A rigid measure shall be straight.

S.4.2. Folding Measure. – A folding measure shall open to a definite stop, and when so opened shall be straight.

S.5. Graduations.

S.5.1. General. – Graduations shall be perpendicular to the edge of the measure.

S.5.2. Width. – The width of the graduations on any measure shall not exceed one-half the width of the smallest graduated interval on the measure, and in no case shall be wider than 0.75 mm (0.03 in).

(Amended 1982)

T. Tolerances

T.1. For Measures Except Metal Tapes. – Maintenance tolerances in excess and in deficiency for measures except metal tapes shall be as shown in Table 1. Maintenance Tolerances, in Excess and in Deficiency, for Linear Measures Except Metal Tapes. Acceptance tolerances shall be one-half the maintenance tolerances.

Table 1.
Maintenance Tolerances, in Excess and in Deficiency, for Linear Measures Except Metal Tapes

Nominal Interval from Zero	Tolerance
Feet	**Inch**
1/2 or less	1/64
1	1/32
2	1/16
3	3/32
4	1/8
5	5/32
6	3/16

T.2. For Metal Tapes. – Maintenance and acceptance tolerances in excess and in deficiency for metal tapes shall be as shown in Table 2. Maintenance and Acceptance Tolerances, in Excess and in Deficiency, for Metal Tapes. Tapes of 10 m (25 ft) or over shall be tested at a tension resulting from a load of 5 kg (10 lb). Tapes less than 10 m (25 ft) shall be tested at a tension resulting from a load of 2.5 kg (5 lb). However, flexible metal tapes of 10 m (25 ft) or less that are not normally used under tension shall be tested with no tension applied. All tapes shall be supported throughout on a horizontal flat surface whenever tested.

(Amended 1972)

Table 2.
Maintenance and Acceptance Tolerances, in Excess and in Deficiency, for Metal Tapes

Nominal Interval from Zero	Tolerance
Feet	**Inch**
6 or less	1/32
7 to 30, inclusive	1/16
31 to 55, inclusive	1/8
56 to 80, inclusive	3/16
81 to 100, inclusive	1/4