

## The Metric System

| Measurement            | Unit and Abbreviation                           | Metric Equivalent                        | Metric to English Conversion Factor           | English to Metric<br>Conversion Factor                   |
|------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Length                 | 1 kilometer (km)                                | = 1000 (10 <sup>3</sup> ) meters         | 1 km = 0.62 mile                              | 1 mile = 1.61 km   |
|                        | 1 meter (m)                                     | $= 100 (10^2)$ centimeters               | 1  m = 1.09  yards                            | 1  yard = 0.914  m                                       |
|                        |   | = 1000 millimeters                       | 1 m = 3.28 feet<br>1 m = 39.37 inches         | 1  foot = 0.305  m                                       |
|                        | 1 centimeter (cm)                               | $= 0.01 (10^{-2}) \text{ meter}$         | 1 cm = 0.394 inch                             | 1 foot = $30.5 \text{ cm}$<br>1 inch = $2.54 \text{ cm}$ |
|                        | 1 millimeter (mm)                               | $= 0.001 (10^{-3}) \text{ meter}$        | 1  mm = 0.039  inch                           |  |
|                        | 1 micrometer (µm)<br>[formerly micron(µ)]       | $= 0.000001 (10^{-6}) \text{ meter}$     |   |  |
|                        | 1 nanometer (nm)<br>[formerly millimicron (mµ)] | = 0.000000001 (10 <sup>-9</sup> )meter   |   |  |
|                        | 1 angstrom (Å)                                  | $= 0.0000000001 (10^{-10})$ meter        |   |  |
| Area                   | 1 square meter (m <sup>2</sup> )                | = 10,000 square centimeters              | $1 \text{ m}^2 = 1.1960 \text{ square yards}$ | 1 square yard = 0.8361 m <sup>2</sup>                    |
|                        |   |  | $1 \text{ m}^2 = 10.764 \text{ square feet}$  | 1 square foot $= 0.0929 \text{ m}^2$                     |
|                        | 1 square centimeter (cm <sup>2</sup> )          | = 100 square millimeters                 | $1 \text{ cm}^2 = 0.155 \text{ square inch}$  | 1 square inch = $6.4516$ cm <sup>2</sup>                 |
| Mass                   | 1 metric ton (t)                                | = 1000 kilograms                         | 1 t = 1.103 ton                               | 1 ton = 0.907 t  |
|                        | 1 kilogram (kg)                                 | = 1000 grams                             | 1  kg = 2.205  pounds                         | 1  pound = 0.4536  kg                                    |
|                        | 1 gram (g)                                      | = 1000 milligrams                        | 1 g = $0.0353$ ounce<br>1 g = $15.432$ grains | 1 ounce = 28.35 g  |
|                        | 1 milligram (mg)                                | = 0.001 gram                             | 1  mg = approx.  0.015  grain                 |  |
|                        | 1 microgram (μg)                                | = 0.000001 gram                          |   |  |
| Volume (solids)        | 1 cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )                 | = 1,000,000 cubic centimeters            | $1 \text{ m}^3 = 1.3080 \text{ cubic yards}$  | 1 cubic yard = 0.7646 m <sup>3</sup>                     |
|                        |   |  | $1 \text{ m}^3 = 35.315 \text{ cubic feet}$   | 1 cubic foot = $0.0283 \text{ m}^3$                      |
|                        | 1 cubic centimeter (cm <sup>3</sup> or cc)      | = 0.000001 cubic meter<br>= 1 millimeter | $1 \text{ cm}^3 = 0.0610 \text{ cubic inch}$  | 1 cubic inch = $16.387 \text{ cm}^3$                     |
|                        | 1 cubic millimeter (mm³)                        | = 0.000000001 cubic meter                |   |  |
| Volume                 | 1 kiloliter (kl or kL)                          | = 1000 liters                            | 1 kl = 264.17 gallons                         | 1 gallon = 3.785 L                                       |
| (liquids<br>and gases) | 1 liter (l or L)                                | = 1000 milliliters                       | 1 L = $0.264$ gallon<br>1 L = $1.057$ quarts  | 1 quart = 0.946 L  |
|                        | 1 milliliter (ml or mL)                         | = 0.001 liter                            | 1  ml = 0.034  fluid ounce                    | 1 quart = 946 ml   |
|                        |   | = 1 cubic centimeter                     | 1 ml = approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon         | 1 pint = 473 ml  |
|                        |   |  | 1 ml = approx. 15–16<br>drops (gtt.)          | 1 fluid ounce = 29.57 ml<br>1 teaspoon = approx. 5 ml    |
|                        | 1 microliter (μl or μL)                         | = 0.000001 liter                         |   |  |
| Time                   | 1 second (s)                                    | $=\frac{1}{60}$ minute                   |   |  |
|                        | 1 millisecond (ms)                              | = 0.001 second                           |   |  |
| Temperature            | Degrees Celsius (°C)                            |  | ${}^{\circ}F = \frac{9}{5}{}^{\circ}C + 32$   | $^{\circ}$ C = $\frac{5}{9}$ $^{\circ}$ F - 32           |

