







**METRIC**  
**MEASURES UP**

NIST Special Publication 376  
Revised April 1993

COMMON UNITS

Unit	Symbol	Measure
millimeter	mm	length
centimeter	cm	
meter	m	
milligram	mg	mass
kilogram	kg	
liter	L	volume

COMMON PREFIXES

Prefix	Symbol	Multiple
micro	$\mu$	1/1 000 000
milli	m	1/1 000
centi	c	1/100
kilo	k	1 000
mega	M	1 000 000
giga	G	1 000 000 000

THE MODERNIZED METRIC SYSTEM

The "modernized" metric system is the International System of Units or SI (from the French "Le Systeme International d'Unites," which is abbreviated SI). For purposes of international trade, the metric system is more than just SI. It includes the product standards and preferred sizes that are accepted by industries and governments throughout the world.

NOTE: Scales and conversions are approximate ( $\approx$ )

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