

TYPES OF STANDARDS

Course : Metrology and Measurements



Standards of Measurement

- A ***standard*** is an exact quantity that people agree to use for comparison.





Types of Standards

- Primary Standard
- Secondary Standard
- Tertiary Standard
- Working Standard



Primary Standard

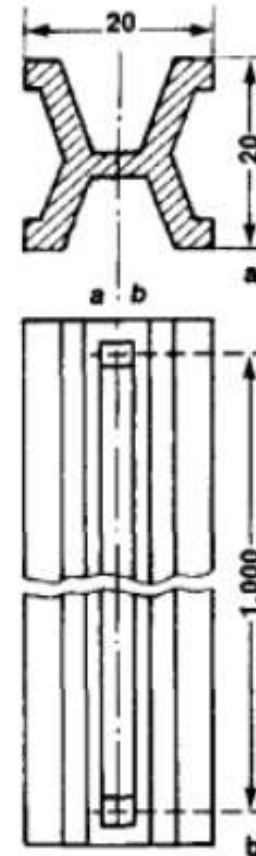
- They are material standard preserved under most careful conditions.
- These are not used for directly for measurements but are ***used once in 10 or 20 years for calibrating secondary standards.***
- ***Ex:*** International Prototype meter, Imperial Standard yard.



Example : International Prototype Meter



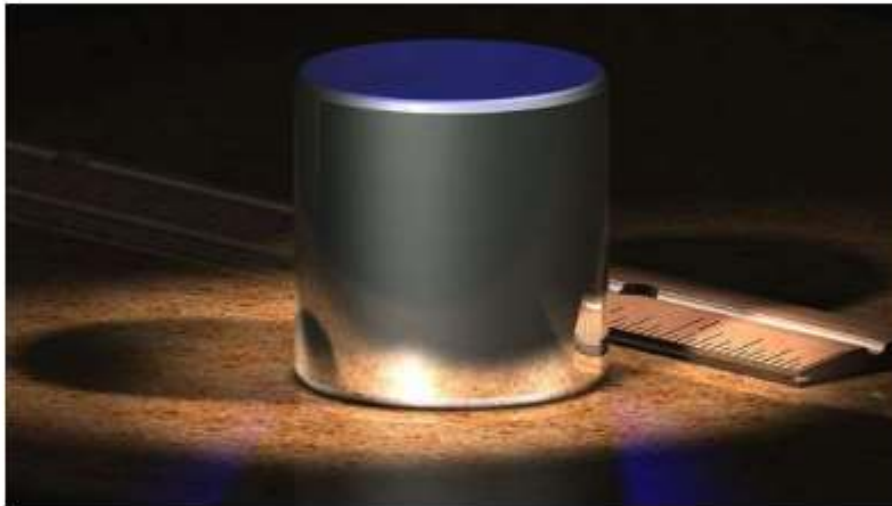
The bars were to be made of a special alloy, **90% platinum and 10% iridium**, which is significantly harder than pure platinum, and have a special X-shaped cross section (a "Tresca section", named after French engineer [Henri Tresca](#)) to minimise the effects of torsional strain during length comparisons.





International Prototype Weight

- The IPK is made of a platinum alloy known as “Pt-10Ir”, which is 90% platinum and 10% iridium (by mass) and is machined into a right-circular cylinder (height = diameter) of 39.17 millimeters to minimize its surface area.





Secondary Standard

- The value of the secondary standard quantity is **less accurate than primary standard** one. It is obtained by comparing with primary standard.
- These are close copies of primary standards w.r.t design, material & length.



Tertiary Standard

- Maintained in National Physics Laboratories (NPL).
- The primary or secondary standards exist as the ultimate controls for reference at rare intervals.
- They are made as close copies of secondary standards & are kept as reference for comparison with working standards.



Working Standards

- These standards are similar in design to primary, secondary & tertiary standards.
- But being less in cost and are made of low grade materials, they are used for general applications in metrology laboratories



Line Standard

- The standard in which the distance is measured between two straight and parallel lines.
- Example :- **Steel Rule**
- Advantages
 - Quick and easy
 - Cheaper
- Disadvantages
 - Parallax error can be generated
 - Accuracy Less

End Standard

- When the distance is measured between two flat and parallel surfaces it is called as end standard.
- Example : **Vernier Caliper, Micrometer**
- Advantages
 - Accuracy of 0.005mm is measureable
 - Minimum possibility of parallax error
- Disadvantages
 - They are costly and difficult to use
 - The measuring surfaces are to be protected.

Wavelength Standard

- Material Standards are subjected to errors due to continuous use because of this wavelength standards are used.
- Light sources like Cadmium 114, Krypton 86 etc. in hot cathode discharge lamp at 68 K.
- According to this
 - $1\text{m} = 16507623.73 \times \text{Wavelength of Kr 86}$



Difference between line, end and wavelength standard

| Sr. No | Parameter | Line Standard | End Standard | Wavelength Standard |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Accuracy | Limited ± 0.2 mm | Good ± 0.001 | Highest |
| 2 | Time of Measurement | Quick | Slightly more than line | Time consuming |
| 3 | Effect of Use | Difficult to assume zero | Ends are harden | Depends on wavelength |
| 4 | Errors | Parallax | Wringing errors, environmental error, wear and tear | No error |
| 5 | Process | Easy | Slightly difficult | Highly difficult |
| 6 | Cost | Low | Medium | High |
| 7 | Example | Steel rule | Vernier, Slip gauges | Monochromatic light source |
| 8 | Care | Engraved lines must be protected | Measuring ends must be protected | Not affected |

