

VIEWPOINT



Dear Editor:

Your article on the ITC's Report to the President on the condition of the U.S. gear industry (Sept./Oct. issue) was most interesting. I am wondering if the total report neglected to mention that some of our inability to export gears is due to our reluctance to provide metric countries with the metric module-based gears that overseas customers demand.

I also hope your readers are apprised of the fact that those involved in furnishing gears to the U.S. government as contractors will have to provide metric-dimensioned gears after 1992.

Sincerely,

Valerie Antoine
Executive Director
U.S. Metric Association, Inc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The relevant portion of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 reads as follows:

" . . . It is therefore the declared policy of the United States (1) to designate the metric system of measurement as the preferred system of weights and measures for U.S. trade and commerce; (2) to require that each Federal agency, by a date certain and to the extent economically feasible by the end of the fiscal year 1992, use the metric system of measurement in its procurements, grants, and other business-related activities, except to the extent that such use is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to U.S. firms . . . "

Readers should also note that in a July 30 letter to Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher, NASA informed the secretary that "Effective with the start of the new fiscal year, October 1, 1990, all Requests for Proposals for new NASA flight programs will require use of the metric system of measurement." A memo dated July 20, 1990, which sets NASA policy on metric conversion states: "Ongoing programs may continue use of the conventional inch-pound system baseline for hardware design, but must plan to accommodate the metric hardware that will result from this transition."

Letters for this column should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, GEAR TECHNOLOGY, P.O. Box 1426, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009. Letters sent to this column become the property of GEAR TECHNOLOGY. Names will be withheld upon request, however, no anonymous letters will be published.



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