

Shanghai, China, June 7, 1937.

Subject:

METRIC SYSTEM FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

Submitted by:

A. Viola Smith, Trade Commissioner

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Under date of June 6, 1937, the Executive Yuan of the National Government of China promulgated regulations stipulating that henceforth gasoline gauges and speedometers for all motor vehicles operating in China shall be recorded in litres and kilometers instead of in gallons and miles as formerly. The adoption of this order upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Industries is to bring this class of vehicles into conformity with the standard metric weights and measures system which China adopted in 1930.

A period of six months time is given to present owners of motor vehicles in which to accomplish the change over from old gasoline gauges and speedometers to metric kilometers and litre equipment. At the expiration of the six months period all cars not equipped with metric system measures will not be granted license permits.

Each kilometer is equivalent to 0.621 mile, while each litre is equivalent to 0.26 gallon.

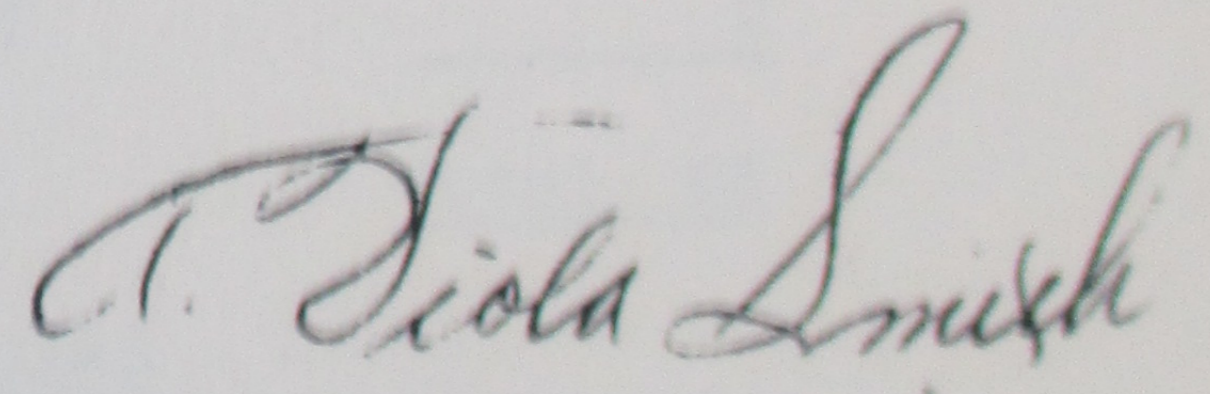
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The National Highway Traffic Commission of the National Bureau of Roads has for the past two years been endeavoring to interest motor vehicle distributors to bring in their machines equipped in the metric system. Representatives of two American manufacturers have within the last year brought in most of their vehicles so equipped.

The new regulations apply only to motor vehicles operating in Chinese territory and are not applicable on motor vehicles operating exclusively in foreign concessions at the major treaty ports. It is conceivable,

however, that the National Government may implement the present order by a Customs Notification requiring that all vehicles imported conform to the metric system.

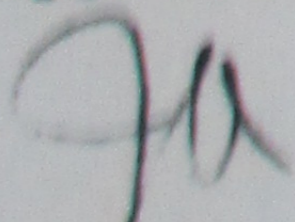
It is not anticipated that the new regulations will cause American manufacturers of motor vehicles any serious inconvenience as it is understood that the metric system speedometers and gauges are standard equipment on vehicles shipped to many European countries. The new order will create a temporary market for this type of accessory while the change over of equipment is being made on existing motor vehicles operating in China.

The new rules further provide that all speed recording devices and signs shall henceforth be in kilometers instead of in miles, and all gasoline tanks and similar oil containers shall be marked in terms of litres instead of gallons. Service stations and agents selling gasoline and lubricating oil are to be required strictly to observe this new ruling.



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