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Shri Rohit Kumar Singh, IAS Secretary Department of Consumer Affairs

Subject: Request for extension of QR Codes pilot under Legal Metrology Rules

Respected Sir,

Greetings from MAIT!

At the outset, MAIT would like to applaud the efforts taken by the Department of Consumer Affairs to embrace digitisation under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022.

Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022 Notification by the Department of Consumer Affairs dated 14th July 2022, G.S.R 577 (E). published in the Gazette of India enabled the display of certain mandatory declarations under LM through a QR Code, for a period of one year i.e. till 14th July 2023.

MAIT members who represent electronics industry believe that the use of QR codes to access mandatory declarations on product boxes will further accelerate the 'Digital India', benefit the consumers by ensuring accuracy of information and enable ease of doing business for manufacturers and packers.

Much like how UPI QR Codes have seen very high adoption numbers and ensured that money transactions are safe, effective and seamless - we firmly believe that QR Codes to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules would result in a seamless experience for consumers with up-to-date information. Just like UPI, the momentum for mass-scale consumer adoption will happen with the passage of time.

We extend our gratitude for trusting the electronics sector to implement the QR Codes, declarations in "pilot-testing". This will pave the way for mass adoption and digitisation in this domain.

Several companies have started their process of implementing QR Codes on their packaging. The process is a technical one that needs realignment of several back-end processes. Because of this, more time is needed for companies to complete the process and adapt to the change and will result in mass adoption over a passage of time. In view of this, we sincerely request that these provisions of including QR Codes should be extended in perpetuity for the electronics industry.

The certainty of an extension in perpetuity will enable electronic manufacturers to invest in infrastructure and planning that is required to enable mass adoption across electronic products.

Request: The pilot allowing the flexibility to use QR Codes while making declarations under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment) Rules for the electronics industry should be extended in perpetuity.

Warm regards,

Col Suhail Zaidi (Retd)

Director General

CC: Ms. Nidhi Khare, IAS, Additional Secretary, DoCA CC: Shri Anupam Mishra, IAS, Joint Secretary, DoCA