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## B.S.T.J. Recommendation for Adopting the International System (SI) of Units

In 1960, the Eleventh General Conference on Weights and Measures proposed an International System of Units (designated SI System from *Le Système International d'Unités*) to be used when referring to physical quantities and concepts. This system was given official status in Resolution No. 12 of the General Conference when it was adopted by the 36 treaty nation members, including the United States. The SI System was adopted by the International Committee on Weights and Measures (the executive body of the General Conference) in 1962. Since then, leading professional societies, such as the American Institute of Physics (AIP), the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and other national and international organizations have adopted and are actively promoting the SI System of Units.

The Bell System Technical Journal Editorial Committee feels that a logical step toward eventual acceptance of the SI System is to use it in scientific publications wherever practical. In areas where such use is already established, no interpretative hardship should result. In applications where the use of the SI units is recent or new, it is recommended that the SI units be shown, followed by the equivalent conventional English units in parenthesis. The Committee therefore recommends that authors use the SI System alone, or with equivalent conventional English units when preparing manuscripts for publication in the Bell System Technical Journal. This recommendation is not a prerequisite to publication in the Journal; however, the Committee expects authors will adopt the SI System unless there are opposing considerations which the author feels are justifiable.

This recommendation is intended to apply only to scientific and tech-

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nical data and should not be interpreted as affecting the choice of units for describing manufacturing standards or processes: i.e., inch sizes of nuts and bolts, American Wire Gauge sizes of conductors, spacing of panel mountings in inches, etc.

Information concerning the SI System is available from a number of sources (see, for example, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Units in Published Scientific and Technical Work", IEEE Spectrum, March, 1966). A list of SI units and conversion factors can be obtained by writing or calling the B.S.T.J. office.

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