

## Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST)

### SI UNITS

*Not all units below are SI; some are “units outside the SI that are accepted for use with SI.”*

Avoid obsolete symbols: Å, atm, cal, erg, kgf, Torr, ppm, gal, bar, μ, etc

Temperatures should be in °C or K (note the lack of a degree mark for K)

One metric ton (symbol “t”, sometimes referred to as “tonne”) is 1 t, 1 Mg, or 1000 kg

Density should be in kg/m<sup>3</sup>, not g/cm<sup>3</sup>

Force is always in Newtons (N), not kgf, and not kg (which is mass).

Liter symbol is “L”

Avoid the use of “cm” with one general exception--the diameter of trees is often given in cm

The use of “weight” should be avoided—use mass, for example, oven-dry mass

In ratios of unit symbols, note that the denominator (the one on the bottom!) should always be in the basic units (m, kg, s) without prefixes. The exception is that kg is a basic SI unit so it comes with the prefix.

#### References

NIST: <http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Units/index.html> (nicely done)

IEEE/ASTM SI 10 Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modernized Metric System (*not free!*)

NIST Special Publication 330 The International System of Units (SI)

NIST Special Publication 811 Guide for the Use of the International System of Units (both of the above are long and on line at: <http://physics.nist.gov/Pubs/pdf.html>)