Meeting The Language Requirements of the EU’s Medical Device Regulation
Meeting The Language Requirements of the EU’s New Medical Device Regulation

Presented by:

United Language Group is one of the largest Language Solutions Providers in the world, providing smart, seamless and secure language solutions that help businesses win in the global marketplace. United Language Group envisions a world in which language is no longer a barrier, and helps global clients turn language translation and interpreting into a competitive advantage.
Disclaimer

Garden of Earthly Delights, Hieronymus Bosch, around 1500
Agenda
Language-specific labeling requirements under the MDR and IVDR

What Information Goes Where?

General Principles Of Labelling Language In Europe

Risks And Opportunities In Labelling Design
What information goes where?

Anatomic lesson by Dr. Nicolaes Tulp
Rembrandt van Rijn, 1632
Economic operators; a bit of history
From MDD/IVDD to MDR/IVDR
Harmonize Standards

Horizontal Standards:

- EN 1041:2008 on information supplied by manufacturer → likely to remain harmonized
- EN ISO 15223-1:2016 on symbols → likely to remain harmonized
- EN ISO 17664:2004 on resterilization → probably harmonized
- EN 15986:2011 on labelling of devices containing phthalates → could be harmonized
- Device specific standards may not be harmonized (e.g. EN ISO 14408:2009 on marking and accompanying information for tracheal tubes designed for laser surgery)
User Information
Under the MDR/IVDR

- Identification of the device and the manufacturer
- Relevant safety and performance information
- Marketing information may not be relevant under the MDR
Location Of Information Under the MDR/IVDR

- On the device, or
- On the label, or
- On the package, or
- In the Instructions for Use (‘IFU’), and
- On the website of the manufacturer (if available), and:
- For medical devices also according to the Electronic labelling Directive (EU) 207/2012
Attention: Summary Of Safety And Performance

- Required for implantable devices and Class III devices (this includes dental implants...)
- ‘...shall be written in a way that is clear to the intended user and... the patient... and shall be made available to the public via Eudamed.’ → any language of Member State where the device is distributed
Essential Information
On The Device Or Label

• Identification of ‘contents of package’ (what, how many/much, in what state etc.)
• Crucial safety warnings
• Essential instructions
What Information Goes Where Under The MDR IVDR

- Identify all information
- Prioritize this information
- Organize how this information is brought to the user/patient
- Don’t forget to add all information, in all languages and with all older versions to your website
Language issues
Tower of Babel
Pieter Breugel The Elder, 1563
Summary

• Economic Operators uniquely identified (SRN)
• Economic Operators in Eudamed
• All devices uniquely identified (UDI)
• Data to be verified by NB and EO downstream
• Registration of devices upstream and downstream
• High administrative load
• High risk factor hinging on Eudamed
They are all equal

In general Member States require user information to be provided in their national language(s)

Combination products: the ‘device part’ must comply with Annex I (GSPR)

No distinction between risk classes

There are few exceptions

In general: The Label should be in the language(s) of the Member State where the device is distributed
Language-sensitive Information

- If the understanding of a message depends on understanding specific words, this is language-sensitive information.
- Examples:
  - ‘Electrical Children’s Wheelchair’
  - ‘Do not touch the surfaces marked with X’
  - ‘Cut to size’
Non Language-sensitive Information

- Some information can be understood regardless the language of the reader
- Examples:
  - XT-22
  - [Barcode Image]

(01)12345678901234(17)140102(11)100102(10)A1234(21)1234
Some information may or may not require a real understanding of the words to be understood.

Examples:
- Device name: ‘Wheelie Bob’
What Sort Of Label Do You Prefer?

- Covering ‘The World’
- Covering Europe
- Covering specific (groups of) Member States
Language Issues In Europe

- English alone is not acceptable for Europe
- Analyze the level of language sensitivity of the information on your labels
- Determine the necessity of that information on your label
- Use symbols to reduce the level language sensitivity
Information On The Label

‘Technical’ information:

- Device identification
- Manufacture identification
- Some warnings
- UDI (device identification and production identification)
- Etc.

‘Clinical’ information:

- Intended use
- (Contra)indications
- Other warnings
- Etc.
Label Quality

- Correct
- Adequate
- Up to date
- Consistent
- But most important: clear to the intended reader

- likely it will also be in compliance
Intended Readers

- Patients
- Care givers
- Physicians
- Competent authorities
- Competitors
- others
European Database For Medical Devices: Eudamed

- Database for Economic operators, devices and UDI, certificates, clinical studies, vigilance and market surveillance
- Part will be publicly accessible
- Make sure data on the label/IFU is consistent with data in Eudamed
Example 1: ‘European’ Label

- No language-specific information
- This includes the device identification and quantity in package
- Use symbols
- Where necessary explain symbols in IFU
- This may impact the design of your device
Example 2: ‘Member State Specific’ Label

- Create a need for detailed identification of your devices
- Create a need for detailed instructions to be provided on the label
- Create a need for detailed warnings
- Attention: each language must have its own UDI-DI
Translating Into National Languages

• The manufacturer remains responsible for the translation
• Translation should be within the scope of the quality management system
• If a local distributor adds his own label or IFU he takes up the role of the manufacturer
• ‘Rogue’ translations may also breach trademark rules
Design Of User Information

- Analyze data
- Understand risks and opportunities
- Design user information on all levels simultaneously
- Adapt to changes as soon as reasonably possible
Thank you

Official Cheese Weigh Locality
Unknown artist
For MDR consulting services, contact Ronald Boumans
Phone: +31 70 345 8570
Email: Ronald.boumans@UL.com

To reach United Language Group in the European Union, contact:
Angela Caballer
Email: Angela.Caballer@ulgroup.com
Phone: +34 697 763 431

For more information about United Language Group’s services, contact Jackie Weber
Phone: +1 612.400.6509 (GMT-6)
Email: jacqueline.weber@ulgroup.com

Eileen Kerry
Email: Eileen.Kerry@ulgroup.com
Phone: +353-91-393054