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mentioned at the start, of Burma and Liberia. China, Russia, Canada, and Mexico all use the metric system. The wealthiest nations on earth: Qatar, Luxemburg, Singapore – and the poorest nations on earth as well, Somalia, Burundi, Central African Republic. Any groups planning on attacking us will no doubt use the metric system. When the European Space Agency lands a probe on a comet they use the metric system.

Metric conversion errors cost the United States millions of dollars ev-

ery year and in an increasingly global marketplace, being an outlier is more than an inconvenience, it's a liability. Any company that imports or exports products, that uses foreign parts or components, or interacts with weights and measures in virtually any capacity is forced to deal with conversions between the metric and the old Imperial systems continually.

Conversion errors occur frequently and catastrophically. Despite copious due diligence, errors are made. Money is lost. This reality is multiplied by thou-

sands of businesses each year resulting in millions of dollars of lost revenue. And those are just the run-of-the-millimeter conversion errors. Every once in a while catastrophic losses occur.

Tokyo Disney's Space Mountain had to be shut down because an axle on one of the roller coasters snapped. The cause simply was a conversion error. A Canadian passenger plane ran out of fuel due to not one but two conversion errors.

As already mentioned above, NASA's Mars Orbiter spacecraft crashed in 1999 because one team of engineers used the old system we've had since we were ruled by King George III, while the rest – along with the rest of NASA – used metric. This resulted in \$125 million taxpayer dollars burned up in the Martian atmosphere. Not NASA, but outdated, outmoded, American policy is to blame in that it forces people to switch between two systems in the first place.

Every time Americans interact with the metric system they are forced to make a choice. They can either take time to convert from the anachronous system, or scratch their head in befuddlement.

In a world where seconds or milliseconds matter in world events, why risk being minutes behind?

Metric conversion errors can be hazardous to more than just space probes. In February 2016, the CDC revised a report on unsafe levels of formaldehyde found in Lumber Liquidators flooring laminates sourced from China. The problem came when the CDC's original report improperly used meters (as the Chinese suppliers did) in its calculations instead of feet (the system used in American construction) in calculating ceiling heights. This downplayed the risks associated with the formaldehyde levels.

The revised report, which corrected the conversions, places the risks 3 times higher than the original estimates. In other words, because the United States uses a different measurement system than the rest of the world, a government agency nearly assembled a faulty report which could have resulted in cancer for as many as 30 people per data set, as opposed to the 9 as originally reported.

An understandable knee-jerk response might be to blame the CDC for its incompetence in this case. But the point remains, however, that if we were a fully metricated country, this, and similar conversion problems would never have occurred.

We already measure our soft drinks in liters and our engines and our wines. Our athletes swim and run 100 meters,

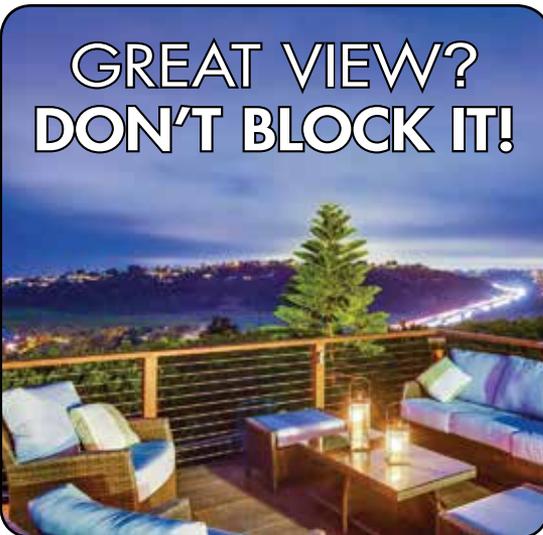
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