

WEIGHING AND MEASURING DEVICE LAWS

Registration - In Washington weighing and measuring devices - like a scale used for commercial purposes - must be registered annually through the Washington State Department of Revenue Business Licensing Service. This is required by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.94.015

Accuracy - All weighing or measuring instruments or devices used for commercial purposes must be accurate and correct, per RCW 19.94.165

Certification - Commercial scales must have a National Type Evaluation Program certificate of conformance (COC). The COC number can be found on the scale in the same place as the model and serial numbers. This is required by Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 16-662-105

Beware of counterfeit scales. Purchase scales from a reputable source.



CONTACTS

Washington State Weights and Measures:
(360) 902-2035
Email: wtsmeasures@agr.wa.gov
Web: agr.wa.gov/wm

City of Seattle - Weights and Measures:
(206) 386-1267
Email: seattle.consumer-affairs@seattle.gov

Washington State Business Licensing Service:
(360) 705-6744
Email: bls@dor.wa.gov
Web: bit.ly/dorwm



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

For more information contact:

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Weights and Measures Program
PO Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504
Phone: 360-902-2035
agr.wa.gov/wm

AGR PUB 819-350 (R/10/23)

Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Please call the WSDA Receptionist at 360-902-1976 or TTY 800-833-6388.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vendor Scales at Farmers Markets

Vendor and manager responsibilities
and what to expect from a weights
and measures inspector



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION
Weights and Measures Program

VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Vendors must use scales registered with the Washington State Department of Revenue Business License Service. Vendors can contact DOR's Business License Service at dor.wa.gov/businesses or (360) 705-6744.
- Vendors must use the correct type of scale and ensure it weighs accurately. Portion scales and scales displaying "not legal for trade" are not suitable for sales.
- Scales must be positioned so customers can observe the weighing operation and the weight displayed.
- All sales must be conducted using net weight. Net weight means the weight of the product only, excluding the wrapper, labeling, and container weight.
- All prepackaged products require a label identifying the product and the net weight. If the product is packaged off-site, you must indicate the name and address of the business packing the product.
- You can find out if your scale has a Certificate of Compliance at the National Conference on Weights and Measures website at www.ncwm.com/nstep-certificates



MARKET MANAGER RESPONSIBILITY

- Ask to see vendors' master business license issued by the Washington State Department of Revenue Business Licensing Service to ensure the vendor has their scales registered.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Inspect scales for accuracy and suitability.
- Inspect scales for correct placement and use.
- Check for the registration of a scale on the vendor's Master Business License.
- Apply an approval seal after a satisfactory inspection.
- Leave a Notice of Correction identifying deficiencies if necessary. Deficiencies must be corrected by a registered scale service agent or the scale must be replaced.
- Provide a registration form if your scale needs to be registered with the DOR Business Licensing Service.
- Answer your questions and provide assistance.