

Scales, and Packaging & Labeling FAQ's

Scales

1. What kind of scale do I need?

If your business buys or sells any commodity or service by weight, you are required to have an NTEP approved, "legal for trade" device.

2. What constitutes a "legal for trade" scale?

It is scale that meets the requirements of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44 and is approved by the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP). These devices will have an accuracy class designation. You can find this designation on the brand plate on the scale along with NTEP approved and "legal for trade" branding.

3. How long is a weighing or measuring device approval valid after is has been inspected?

The approval is valid for one year, unless it is taken out of service for a violation during that time.

4. Is there a fee for inspecting my device?

Yes, there is an inspection fee. You can find the listing on our webpage at <https://www.agriculture.mo.gov/weights/pdf/WMCP-Scale-Fee-FY2021.pdf>

5. Can I use my new scale for commercial transactions right out of the package?

No, the scale must be first be tested and "placed in service," by a registered service company or by a State inspector. Once approved a state inspection decal will be placed on the device.

6. If I have a problem with my scale, whom should I contact?

We do not repair scales; however, we can provide the names of registered scale repair companies in your area or you can look them up online or in your local phone book.

Packaging and Labeling

1. When I buy products at the deli counter, am I paying for the container? How would I know?

Selling a product by gross weight (net weight plus tare weight) is illegal. Deli items must be sold on a net weight basis. The weight of the container is called "tare" and is not to be included in the net weight.

2. What steps can I take to prevent being shorted on a weighing or measuring device?

- Make sure the device is on a level surface.
- The instrument must start at zero.
- The device should not have anything touching it.
- Watch the person doing the weighing or measuring to make sure that nothing extra is added.
- Verify that there is a current Weights and Measures decal on the device.