



Quick Reference Guide

Legal For Sale Scales



You must have a commercial quality scale if you buy or sell a commodity or service by weight. For example, you must have a commercial quality scale to sell candy, produce, nails, beads, seed, bait, oxygen, or other commodities by weight. Your scale must also be of commercial quality if it prints price labels for meat, deli, bakery, produce, or other items; if it is used to buy metal, jewels, or any other commodity by weight; or if it is a shipping or laundry scale, or is used to determine the price of any other service.

In Minnesota, scales are tested by [The Weights and Measures Division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce](#).

Commercial quality scales

Any commercial scale or meter manufactured or installed after January 1, 1996 must have a National Typed Evaluation Program (NTEP) Certificate of Conformance (COC) issued by the National Conference on Weights & Measures.

To be of commercial quality, mechanical scales must have a zero which requires a tool to adjust and electronic scales must have a means for sealing the calibration mechanism.



Bathroom scales, baby scales, scales marked Not Legal for Trade, and mechanical scales with thumbscrew zeros or other zeroing mechanisms which can be adjusted without a tool, are not commercial quality scales and must not be used for commercial transactions in Minnesota.

Testing Scales

Scales must be registered with the Weights and Measures Division before using them for legal sales. If the company which sells you the scale or meter has service agents registered with the Weights and Measures Division, they will notify the Weights and Measures Division when they place the device in service. If you buy a scale or meter off the internet, from a private party, or from a company with no registered service agents, you are responsible for notifying the Weights and Measures Division of the purchase, and you must not use the scale until it has been placed into service by either a weights and

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measures investigator a registered service person. If a Weights and Measures official cannot schedule an inspection in your desired time frame, they can provide a list of companies with registered service agents.

When buying a used scale or meter, do not assume that a device which has last year's approval sticker will pass inspection. Have a reputable service company examine the scale or meter before you buy it; or make an agreement with the seller before the sale about what will happen if the scale is rejected.

After the initial inspection, a commercial grocery, food or hardware scale may be inspected every 3 years or in response to a consumer complaint. All other commercial scales and meters may be tested annually or in response to a consumer complaint.

There is a fee associated with testing scales.

For more information, contact the Weights and Measures Division Minnesota Department of Commerce, Weights and Measures Division, 14305 Southcross Drive Suite 150, Burnsville MN 55306. E-mail weights.measures@state.mn.us or Phone (651) 539-1555.