

Weights and Measures Program Responsibilities

The mission of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is to serve, promote and protect the food, agriculture, environmental and economic interests of the people of Michigan.

MDA's Weights and Measures Program is charged with ensuring that everything bought or sold on the basis of weight, measure or count is done in accordance with the requirements of state law (the Weights and Measures Act of 1964, Public Act 283).

Inspectors conduct inspections and testing of all weighing and measuring devices used in commercial trade to ensure accuracy.

The Weights and Measures Program also is responsible for verifying the net contents of all packaged products offered for sale by weight, measure, or count in Michigan.

In addition, the program investigates weight and measure complaints, which come from industry and consumers alike.

Voluntary Serviceperson Registration Program

Under the Weights and Measures Act, registration of service companies and personnel is required before any commercial weighing and measuring devices can be put into service; to remove official rejection tags; and to return "condemned" devices to service.



Registration requires:

- Successful completion of the Michigan Weights and Measures Act examination
- Successful completion of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44 General Code examination
- Successful completion of the NIST Handbook 44 device specific examination for which registration is being sought
- Documentation verifying possession of certified test standards

A list of registered service agencies can be found under Licensing, Registration and Certification, Weights and Measures at www.michigan.gov/wminfo



Basic Labeling Requirements

The Weights and Measures Act provides basic labeling requirements for commodities in package form, which include:

- The identity of the commodity in the package unless it can easily be identified through the wrapper or container
- The net quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure or count
- The name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer or distributor

Accuracy Is Good for Business

Accurate weights and measures are good business for operators. It ensures an equitable and fair marketplace across the state. To encourage compliance and increase consumer protection, MDA's Weights and Measures Program is proactive in assisting businesses and their customers with weights and measures concerns and needs.

Technical Help and Training

Training is available for the development and implementation of new technology. Contact the Weights and Measures Program at: (517) 655-8202, ext. 304.

Training and general information classes can be tailored to meet individual industry or consumer needs.

Learn how accurate weights and measures maximize production, and ensure that "you get what you pay for."

Weights and Measures Act of 1964, Public Act No. 283

An act to regulate and provide standards for weights and measures, and the packaging and advertising of certain commodities.

Effective April 29, 2002, PA 283 requires:

- All commercial weighing and measuring devices manufactured or placed into service after January 1, 1988, be National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) approved and have a valid Certificate of Conformance (COC)
- More info at: www.ncwm.net/ntep
- All commercial weighing and measuring devices meet the requirements contained in the NIST Handbook 44, Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices
- That the packaging, labeling and method of sale of a commodity sold in Michigan conforms to the NIST Handbook 130, Uniform Regulation for the Method of Sale of Commodities and Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation

These handbooks can be found under "Publications" at: www.nist.gov



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Consumer Complaint Hotline
1-800-632-3835



The Michigan Weights and Measures Program



*Promoting and Protecting
Michigan Businesses
and Consumers*

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