



Weights and Measures

Scales used in the buying and selling of commodities or services by weight must be legal for trade, have an active National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Certificate of Conformance (CC) unless otherwise exempted, licensed annually with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and certified by the Measurement Standards Division. This includes, but is not limited to, the following types of weighing equipment:

- a. Produce scales (hanging or countertop),
- b. Price-computing scales,
- c. Portable platform scales (for weighing sacks, baskets, bins, etc.),
- d. Built-in, floor, or “dormant” scales (for weighing pallet loads, tote boxes, etc.),
- e. Single animal scales (for weighing one head of livestock at a time),
- f. Livestock scales (for weighing multiple head of livestock),
- g. Motor vehicle scales,
- h. Hopper scales (for loose bulk commodities, grains, seeds, nuts, etc.), and
- i. Belt-conveyor scale systems (for weighing large quantities of bulk commodities on a continuous basis).

Packaged products must bear a declaration of the product contained, the responsible party’s address, and the net contents in terms of weight or other measure as provided for in the department’s Weights and Measures Packaging and Labeling Regulations (OAR Ch. 603-027-0105 through 603-027-0220).

Products sold in bulk form (e.g. firewood, bark mulch, etc.) but not weighed or measured utilizing a licensed and certified weighing or measuring device, must still be accurately represented as to the quantity delivered. This requires that an appropriate unit of measure be applied.

Generally, Oregon regulations require that commodities in liquid form shall be sold only by liquid measure or net weight. Except as otherwise expressly provided, commodities not in liquid form shall be sold only by weight, measure of length or area, or count. However, liquid commodities may be sold by weight, and commodities not in liquid form may be sold by count only if such methods give accurate information as to the quantity of the commodity sold. These provisions do not apply to:

- Commodities sold for immediate consumption on the premises where sold;
- Vegetables sold by the head or bunch;
- Commodities in containers standardized by the laws of Oregon or the United States;
- Commodities in packaged form when there exists a general consumer usage to express the quantity in some other manner;
- Concrete aggregates, concrete mixtures, and loose solid materials such as earth, soil, gravel, crushed stone, and like substances sold by cubic measure; or
- Unprocessed vegetable and animal fertilizer sold by the cubic measure.

The Measurement Standards Division of the Oregon Department of Agriculture may inspect and test weighing and measuring devices to ascertain their correctness. The division may do this as often as it considers necessary and will test these devices at the request of the owner. An approval seal signifying the division’s approval must be attached to all commercially used weighing and measuring devices unless specifically exempted by law.

Please remember, all commercially used weighing and measuring devices in Oregon must be legal for trade, have an active National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Certificate of Conformance (CC) unless otherwise exempted, currently licensed with the department, and certified by the Measurement Standards Division.

For license applications and certification examinations for scales in Oregon,

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