

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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DMS NOTICE
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Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Questions Regarding Newly Approved Customer Indicators For Water Submeters.

The Division of Measurement Standards has received the following questions regarding the installation of remote customer indicators on water submeters. The responses, in italics, immediately follow each question.

- **Will a remote indicator need to be submitted to the local county W&M office for testing/sealing prior to installation or will this be done in the field?**

The sealer can request the remote indicator initially to verify correct units identification (1 gallon, 1 ft³, 10 gallons) or functionality, etc. It is probably not necessary after installation because the device will be sealable, has no adjustable circuitry, and all the units are identical. Once connected into a system, the billing indication, the meter register, and the remote display require synchronization which cannot be effectively accomplished until connected. The service agent will need to synchronize the indications and apply a security seal to the terminals at the meter and at the remote display. If intermediary connectors are used, they will also need to be sealed since disconnection affects integrity of the displayed value. When an official inspects the indications, the indications must agree. He may also want to examine the condition of the seals. If, in the sealer's judgment, the service agent's security seal is effective and can be initialed, marked, dated, etc by the sealer and remain tamper evident, the sealer should be able to leave the marked agency seals intact. He may instead elect to apply his own sealing device.

- **The location where the wire connections are made will obviously be sealed. When we install the device in the field we will have to break that seal in order to wire the device. What will a service agent need to do to reseal the device?**

A security seal can be a tamper-proof adhesive seal, one that cannot be removed and replaced without leaving evidence that the seal was removed or broken. The agency may design an adhesive seal(s) suitable to secure a terminal cover in place. An example is on this certificate:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/CTEP%20Approvals/PDF%202006/5361a-06.pdf>

- **Is there a special die-cast crimper we will need to use?**

No. The only requirement is that the “effective” security means display the registration number and the year.

- **I assume a placed in service notice needs to be submitted for each remote indicator installed just like we do with meters?**

Yes, this is the customer’s primary indication and it is subject to verification.

- **I also assume we will need to place a service agency/agent sticker on each remote indicator as well?**

The remote indication is part of the entire meter system. Some may consider the individual elements to be separate devices so I recommend application of identification on both elements. If only one element is accessed and the other seals are proper and remain intact, only the adjusted element would require identification and sealing.

Finally, it should be remembered that there are additional requirements for accessibility and for providing assistance to sealers in addition to the requirements for customer indicators. While a sealer can conceivably use ladders or require assistance in applying or verifying seals associated with the meter or to verify markings, meters obviously cannot be completely inaccessible even if equipped with a remote customer indicator.

If you have questions or comments, please contact your area device specialist or Ken Lake, Program Supervisor, at (916) 229-3047.

Sincerely,



Mike Cleary
Director

cc: Ed Williams, Director, County Liaison Office