

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND

A.G. KAWAMURA, Secretary

Division of Measurement Standards
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DMS NOTICE
D-08-1

January 7, 2008

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Control of Official Seals/Badges

We have received input from concerned officials that official current and prior year seals have been identified for sale on EBay. It is strongly advised that official weights and measures seals not be made available to outside parties, even those who profess to be collectors. It takes two to eleven years before a specific year's seal is no longer valid so any past year seals left on-hand should be kept by the official agency or destroyed once they have expired.

It is noted that the seals being offered for sale may have been produced outside of official channels, but this also appears to violate statutes. Anyone who is selling, or anyone other than a sealer who is making use of an official county or state seal may be in violation of California Penal Code Section 856g.

".....(b) Any person who willfully wears, exhibits, or uses, or willfully makes, sells, loans, gives, or transfers to another, any badge, photographic identification card, or insignia, which falsely purports to be for the use of a state, county, city, special district, or city and county officer or employee, or which so resembles the authorized badge, photographic identification card, or insignia of a state, county, city, special district, or city and county officer or employee as would deceive an ordinary reasonable person into believing that it is authorized for use by a state, county, city, special district, or city and county officer or employee, is guilty of a misdemeanor, except that any person who makes or sells any badge under the circumstances described in this subdivision is subject to a fine not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)....."

Sincerely,

Edmund E. Williams
Acting Director

cc: Kevin Masuhara, Director, County Liaison Office
Device Compliance Investigators