

**DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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DMS Notice  
M – 07 – 02

August 10, 2007

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT: County Weights and Measures Standards Certification Interval**

This Notice supersedes DMS 3 Policy (1998)

To support weights and measures officials in their enforcement actions when testing devices or checking products for compliance with applicable laws, the physical standards they use must be traceable to national standards and certified. In accordance with Section 12310 of the Business and Professions Code, standards shall be certified every two years by the state metrology laboratory or based on the review of statistical data resulting in previous certifications; the director may set the certification interval as often as deemed necessary, but in no event shall the period between certifications exceed ten years.

The enclosed Table 1 defines the current certification interval of standard types or groups as determined by the Director based on statistical review. Standards other than those listed in Table 1 require a two-year interval.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Boers, Principal State Metrologist at (916) 229-3022 or George Terrell, Measurement Standards Specialist at (916) 229-3024.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Johannes  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Masuhara, Director, County Liaison Office

**Table 1: Certification Interval**

<b>Standards Type or Group</b>	<b>Certification Interval<sup>1</sup></b>
All weights and weight kits (NIST 105-1 Class F)	4 Years
Field "test measures" 5 gallons or smaller	4 Years
Portable truck, trailer or cart mounted bottom dump petroleum, LPG, or farm milk tank "provers" 5 gallons or larger	4 Years
Digital/electronic stop watches	4 Years
Mechanical stop watches	2 Years
Liquid in glass mercury thermometers	5 Years <sup>2</sup>
Electronic thermometers	2 Years <sup>2</sup>
Watt-hour test sets	2 Years
Fixed installation "provers" including: petroleum, water meter, and graduated overhead tanks	10 years
Fixed standards including: glass measuring flasks, liquid or dry measures, measuring tapes and rulers	10 years
<b>Due to limited resources, please review your standards inventory and withhold unnecessary items from state certification, allowing sufficient standards and spares for your current staff. Standards used for display or currently in storage are to be withheld from state certification until returned to enforcement use.</b>	

**NOTES:**

1. Once due, the standard must be recertified within 1 year of the "Certification Interval".
2. Thermometer certification dates are announced by DMS Metrology Notices.