Authorization to use Common Tare

To apply for a common tare, complete both the weighmaster certificate and a Common Tare Notice. Mail the originals of each to DMS within 5 days of weighing. Maintain a copy of the Common Tare Notice at each weighing location where it will be used. **Note:** The common tare weight only applies to the containers in the lot from which the random sample was selected.

The Common Tare Notice is available on the Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) website at [http://cdfa.ca.gov/dms/forms.html](http://cdfa.ca.gov/dms/forms.html).

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**COMMON TARE NOTICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Designation</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Common Tare Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCG-B-1</td>
<td>3/15/15</td>
<td>115 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CALIFORNIA CANNERS AND GROWERS**

Established by Weighmaster Certificate Number: 1234

Type of Tare: **Bamboos**

Dimensions:

- **Length:** 47 inches
- **Width:** 47 inches
- **Height:** 32 inches

Container Description: Solid plywood sides, vented bottoms, fork lift protectors, corner caps, and braces.

Outside runner is 2 1/2 x 1 3/8 inches.

**Notes:** CAL CAN

**Commodity:** APPLES, PEARS

**Storage Location:**

- **San Jose, CA**
- **Santa Clara, CA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number weighed</th>
<th>Total number in use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total container weight:** 11,850 lbs

**Number of containers:** 100

**Average weight:** 118.5 lbs

**Tare:** 3/15/15

The contents of this Common Tare Notice and the weighmaster certificate(s) issued to establish the common tare are to be mailed to the Division of Measurement Standards, 6790 Florin Perkins Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95828, (916) 229-3000, within 5 days.

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California Department of Food and Agriculture
Division of Measurement Standards
6790 Florin Perkins Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95828-1812
Phone: 916-229-3000
Fax: 916-229-3026

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms)
What is a Common Tare?

A common tare (C.T.) is the average weight of a group (lot) of containers or pallets under the control of one user. The weight is determined by a weighmaster prior to use.

Authority / Reference

Business and Professions Code, Division 5, sections 12027, 12723, and 12735; California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 9, sections 4440–4450

Establishing a Common Tare

The following items are necessary to establish a common tare weight:

- Licensed weighmaster
- County sealed scale (verify zero balance)
- A group of containers, which:
  - are under the control of one user,
  - are free from foreign matter,
  - are in usable condition,
  - weigh less than 1,000 lb each, and
  - are within a uniform weight range
- Common Tare Notice Form
- “Tare Only” weighmaster certificate

The weighmaster shall individually, or as specified for palletized containers, weigh a randomly selected sample. The common tare weight is established by mathematically dividing the total weight of the sample by the number of containers in the sample.

It is the responsibility of the party for whom the tare was established to maintain the tare weight within the tolerance.

Container Sample Size

For containers used individually, the minimum sample size is 96, or 100% of the containers, whichever is less. For palletized containers, the minimum sample size is determined in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Containers Per Pallet</th>
<th>Minimum Pallet Loads to be Weighed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>96 or 100%, whichever is less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>37 or 100%, whichever is less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>22 or 100%, whichever is less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 or more</td>
<td>11 or 100%, whichever is less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uniform Weight Range

The uniform weight range is the weight from the average that any individual container in the lot may weigh plus or minus 0.2 lb or 20% whichever is greater. The uniform weight range for a lot weighing an average of 100 pounds is shown below.

Example:

20% of 100 lb.  
20 lb. Variation

Heaviest container = 110 lb.
Lightest container = 90 lb.

Rounding

Common tare weights are rounded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Tare Weight</th>
<th>Weight Shall be Rounded to the Nearest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;30 lb.</td>
<td>One-tenth (0.1) lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 lb. or more</td>
<td>Nearest one (1) lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tolerance

Common tare weights shall be maintained as close as practicable to the established tare weight. When verified by enforcement officials, the average weight of a group of containers cannot exceed the tolerance level of 2% of the established tare weight. The tolerance for a common tare weight of 100 pounds is shown below.

Example:

2% of 100 lb.  
2 lb. Tolerance

Use on Weighmaster Certificates

The following information must appear on weighmaster certificates when a common tare weight is used:

- The fact that a common tare weight is being used
- The common tare weight (C.T.)
- Description of the container/code designation
- Processor/user for whom the common tare weight has been established

Example Certificate – Establishing Common Tare

Heaviest average 102 lb.
Lightest average 98 lb.