



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

July 11, 2012

DMS NOTICE
QC-12-7
Discard: RETAIN

TO: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Statewide Agriculture Production Materials Survey

The statewide Agriculture Production Materials Survey was completed in March 2012. The 40 counties that participated in this survey randomly selected and tested 678 items throughout the state for net contents.

The surveyed items had an average overfill of 0.37 percent. Of the 678 items tested, 181 were found to be underfilled or 29.3 percent. Of the 22 subcategories surveyed, 17 had an average overfill and five had an average underfill. Underfilled products found during the survey were followed up with official lot inspections and underfilled lots were removed from sale by local officials.

The enclosed documents outline the survey procedures and results for individual subcategories. If you have any questions regarding this or other marketplace surveys on quantity compliance, please contact Katherine de Contreras, Supervising Special Investigator at (916) 229-3047 or katherine.decontreras@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kristin J. Macey
Director

Enclosure

cc: Edmund Williams, CDFA County/State Liaison



County weights and measures officials collected information for this survey during February and March 2012. For the purposes of this survey, agricultural production materials included the material inputs needed to produce agricultural commodities in the categories of field crops, livestock and poultry, vegetables and melons, fruits and nuts, and greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture, etc. Any agricultural input that matched the subcategory was considered.

SAMPLE:

Approximately 30 retail items were assigned in each of the following subcategories:

- 11.06 Economic Poisons (Not Elsewhere Classified, NEC)
- 11.07 Phosphatic and Superphosphate Fertilizer
- 11.08 Organic Fertilizers and Mixed Fertilizers
- 11.10 Poultry Feed
- 11.11 Livestock Feeds - Including Salt Licks
- 11.15 Vegetable and Agricultural Seeds
- 11.18 Garden tools and Related Products
- 11.19 Herbicides
- 11.40 Garden, Farm and Pet Supplies NEC
- 12.02 Bolts, Nuts, Washers, and Screws
- 12.15 Moulding and Lumber
- 12.22 Fencing, Flashing, Wire Products and Posts
- 15.04 Rope, Cordage, Twine
- 15.40 Plastic Products NEC
- 16.17 Tents and Tarps
- 17.12 Welding Equipment and Supplies
- 17.16 Pressurized Gasses

Approximately 25 retail items were assigned for the following packing locations (Point of Pack). Points of Pack locations are products that are weighed or measured **AND** labeled. The packages were to be tested from any of the subcategories from the indicated commodity group that met the description of an Agricultural Production Material.

- 11.50 Garden, Farm, & Pet Supplies, Audits
- 12.50 Hardware & Building Materials, Audits
- 15.50 Paper & Plastic Products, Audits
- 16.50 Textile Products, Audits
- 17.50 Miscellaneous, Audits

The samples from individual packers consisted of five randomly selected items of any type or types in their category.

SELECTION:

Establishments visited were selected randomly by participating counties. No more than three items from a single subcategory and not more than 15 items overall were selected from a single retail establishment. All retail stores selling prepackaged products that would be used by agriculturists were considered for selection.

Packagers (sub-categories 11.50, 12.50, 15.50, 16.50, and 17.50) were defined as any establishment packaging and labeling products for retail sale. Packager locations were chosen using random numbers and assigned to counties. Because of the specialized nature of the materials, it was necessary to replace assignments to counties where the packers were located. Most items in sub-category 16.50 are now imported and only two locations were identified in California for testing.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE:

After purchase, packages were either checked on-site or taken to the local county quantity control laboratory for testing. Each package was opened to determine actual net content. Errors were recorded by comparing actual contents to the labeled net content.

Agricultural Production Materials Survey Results
February- March 2012
(DMS Notice Q-12-7)

Subcategory	Number Tested	Number Over-filled	Number Under-filled	Number No Error	Percent Compliance	Average Percent Compliance	Standard Deviation
11.06 Economic Poisons (NEC)	30	21	7	2	76.67%	0.98%	0.017
11.07 Phosphatic & Superphosphate Fertilizer	30	20	10	0	66.67%	0.00%	0.015
11.08 Organic & Mixed Fertilizers	30	25	3	2	90.00%	2.36%	0.034
11.10 Poultry Feed	30	23	6	1	80.00%	0.67%	0.014
11.11 Livestock Feeds; Salt licks	30	20	9	1	70.00%	0.45%	0.018
11.15 Vegetable & Agricultural Seeds	30	19	11	0	63.33%	0.59%	0.025
11.18 Garden Tools & Related Products	30	14	5	11	83.33%	0.49%	0.038
11.19 Herbicides	30	21	6	3	80.00%	0.73%	0.023
11.40 Garden, Farm, Pet Supplies (NEC)	30	15	8	7	73.33%	0.54%	0.067
12.02 Bolts, Nuts, Washers, Screws	30	15	4	11	86.67%	0.30%	0.019
12.15 Moulding & Lumber	30	5	13	12	56.67%	-2.53%	0.063
12.22 Fencing, Flashing, Wire Products, Posts	30	12	5	13	83.33%	0.06%	0.007
15.04 Rope, Cordage, Twine	30	24	5	1	83.33%	2.28%	0.060
15.40 Plastic Products (NEC)	30	9	14	7	53.33%	-0.41%	0.062
16.17 Tents & Tarps	29	7	19	3	34.48%	-1.80%	0.030
17.12 Welding Equipment & Supplies	30	12	8	10	73.33%	0.72%	0.029
17.16 Pressurized Gasses	30	11	14	5	53.33%	0.88%	0.051
11.50 Garden, Farm, & Pet Supplies, Audits	25	18	7	0	72.00%	1.30%	0.028
12.50 Hardware & Building Materials, Audits	24	8	2	14	91.67%	0.33%	0.009
15.50 Paper & Plastic Products, Audits	25	13	8	4	68.00%	-0.40%	0.045
16.50 Textile Products, Audits	10	3	7	0	30.00%	-0.91%	0.024
17.50 Miscellaneous, Audits	25	13	10	2	60.00%	0.59%	0.064
Totals	618	328	181	109	70.71%	0.37%	0.034