

Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, California 95826-4808

DMS NOTICE
W – 4 – 01

July 17, 2001

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Statewide Baseline Survey – Predetermined Vehicle Tare Weights

The Division of Measurement Standards has completed a statewide survey of licensed weighmasters who use predetermined vehicle tare weights in earth, stone, rock, sand, gravel and asphalt business locations. The survey was done between the months of March 2001 and May 2001.

Our Weighmaster/Petroleum Enforcement Branch randomly selected 41 locations and verified 196 predetermined vehicle tare weights. The following attachment outlines the parameters used and provides the detailed results of the survey.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact David Lazier, Chief, Weighmaster/Petroleum Enforcement Branch, at (916) 229-3044.

Sincerely,

Mike Cleary
Director
(916) 229-3000

Attachment

**MARKETPLACE EVALUATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**

**BASELINE SURVEY
PREDETERMINED VEHICLE TARE WEIGHTS
USED IN EARTH, STONE, ROCK, SAND, GRAVEL
AND ASPHALT BUSINESS LOCATIONS**

JUNE 2001

**DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS
PREDETERMINED VEHICLE TARE WEIGHTS USED
IN EARTH, STONE, ROCK, SAND, GRAVEL
AND ASPHALT BUSINESS LOCATIONS**

BASELINE SURVEY

A statewide random survey to determine the baseline compliance levels for predetermined vehicle tare weights was conducted throughout California from March 2001 through May 2001.

Scope of the Survey

The Division of Measurement Standards' Weighmaster Enforcement/Petroleum Products Branch staff verified predetermined vehicle tare weights at randomly selected earth, stone, rock, sand, gravel and asphalt business locations throughout the State. Drivers of vehicles, for which predetermined tares weights were being used, were asked to bring their empty trucks and trailers back onto the vehicle scale to verify the recorded tare weight. Predetermined vehicle tare weights that did not exceed the recorded tare weights were identified as being in compliance with Business and Professions Code Section 12722(b).

Location and Sample Selection

A total of one hundred ninety-six (196) predetermined vehicle tare weights were verified. Weighmaster Enforcement/Petroleum Products Branch staff were given forty-one (41) randomly selected earth, stone, rock, sand, gravel and asphalt business locations to visit for the purpose of verifying vehicle tare weights.

Survey Results

The following chart summarizes the results of the baseline survey. The results should be useful by weights and measures officials in determining which areas of the marketplace to focus their enforcement activities.

PREDETERMINED VEHICLE TARE WEIGHTS

Total number of locations visited	41
Total number of predetermined vehicle tare weights verified	196
Total number of predetermined vehicle tare weights in compliance	172
Total number of predetermined vehicle tare weights not in compliance	24
Percent of predetermined vehicle tare weights in compliance	87.8%
Percent of predetermined vehicle tare weights not in compliance	12.2%
Range of predetermined vehicle tare weight errors	-1020 to +620 lbs
Average minus predetermined vehicle tare weight error	-141 lbs
Average plus predetermined vehicle tare weight error	+168 lbs
Mean predetermined vehicle tare weight error	-104 lbs

All locations where predetermined vehicle tare weights were found to be in non-compliance were required to re-establish the predetermined tare weight. Those locations were also issued Notices of Violation for the non-compliant predetermined vehicle tare weights.