**SCALES USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES**

All scales used for commercial purposes must meet strict standards for accuracy and customer visibility in the California Code of Regulations. Appropriate and suitable scales must be of a type approved by the Division of Measurement Standards and issued either a California Type Evaluation Program (CTEP) Certificate of Approval or a National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Certificate of Conformance before commercial use. This process is known as "Type Evaluation." See the CTEP Information Guide at: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/ctep/CTEPIInfoGuide.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/ctep/CTEPIInfoGuide.pdf)

---

**Step 1: Selecting a suitable scale to meet your business needs.**

- **Consider:**
  - Range of weighing (minimum and maximum capacities)
  - Division (increment) size
  - Precision (i.e., scales that comply with Accuracy Class I & II parameters)

Legal-for-trade scales purchased from a scale dealer or purchased online will require calibration before use. A Registered Service Agency (RSA) can assist you in the selection of a type approved and suitable scale. They will ensure the scale is accurate and correct, install and place the scale into commercial use pending inspection by a local weights and measures official, and can assist in the scale registration process. RSAs listings can be found at [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs rsa/rsa.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs rsa/rsa.html) or via online searches.

---

**Step 2: Setting up your scale.**

- Scales must be installed and operated per the manufacturer’s instructions and California laws and regulations.
- Scales must be placed on a level solid surface and properly used and maintained (refer to owner’s manual).
- Legal-for-trade scales must be “inspected, tested and sealed” by a County Weights and Measures Office.
- Precision scales may need to be verified and recalibrated when moved to another location within a production facility or retail establishment.

---

**Step 3: Using and maintaining your scale.**

- Use the scale according to the owner’s reference manual.
- Deduct “TARE” (packaging, wrappings, containers, labels etc.) to determine “NET” weight (NET = GROSS – TARE).
- The owner or user is responsible for ensuring the accuracy and proper maintenance of a commercial scale.
- EVERYBODY benefits from an accurate scale. The customer is not cheated, and the seller is protected by weights and measures officials who ensure a level playing field for all competing businesses.

---

**Step 4: Register a scale with your county.**

- Most California counties have local ordinances requiring annual registration of commercial scales.
- Find your County Weights and Measures Office at: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/)
For Harvest Weights, Bulk Packaging, Net Weight Verification and Weight Verification for Track and Trace Reporting.

### Typical Class I & II Scale Capacities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric Units</th>
<th>US Standard Units</th>
<th>Metric Units</th>
<th>US Standard Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kilogram (kg)</td>
<td>pound (lb)</td>
<td>gram (g)</td>
<td>pound (lb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5 kg (500 g)</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
<td>0.5 g</td>
<td>0.001 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 kg</td>
<td>10 lb</td>
<td>5 g</td>
<td>0.01 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 kg</td>
<td>100 lb</td>
<td>50 g</td>
<td>0.1 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 kg +</td>
<td>100 lb +</td>
<td>500 g +</td>
<td>1.0 lb +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*EXAMPLES:*
- Capacity = 100 kg: min. div. can be (0.001 kg, 0.002 kg, 0.005 kg or smaller)
- Capacity = 5000 lb: min. div. can be (1 lb, 0.2 lb, 0.5 lb, or smaller)

For Retail Packaging, Net Weight Verification, and Retail Sales from Bulk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical Weighing Range</th>
<th>Maximum Scale Division Size (Increments)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1 gram (g)</td>
<td>0.01 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1-10 g</td>
<td>0.01 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 10-100 g</td>
<td>0.1 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 100-1,000 g</td>
<td>1 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1/8 ounce (oz) to 1/2 oz</td>
<td>0.0005 oz (0.00002 lb) (0.01 g)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1/2+ oz to 1 oz</td>
<td>0.005 oz (0.0002 lb) (0.1 g)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 1 oz</td>
<td>0.05 oz (0.002 lb) (1 g)*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Conversions rounded to nearest legal division size.

### Additional Resources

- California Weights and Measures Laws and Regulations: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/publications.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/publications.html)
- Buying Legal-for-Trade Scales Online: [ncwm.net/resource/consumer-information](http://ncwm.net/resource/consumer-information)
- National and California Type Evaluation Program - Certificate Search Database: [ncwm.net/ntep/cert_search](http://ncwm.net/ntep/cert_search) and [cdfa.ca.gov/dms/ctep.html](http://cdfa.ca.gov/dms/ctep.html)
- California Weighmaster Requirements: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/wm/wm.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/wm/wm.html)

SALES BY WEIGHT:

A business needs to determine weight of:
- containers/packages of trimmings,
- containers/packages of product, and
- packages of dried flower.

These different types of containers and packages will likely require scales of different capacities and division sizes due to basic suitability requirements.
- Scale 1: For weighing 1 lb net-weight packages the grower could use a 1 kg x 0.001 kg scale (1000 g x 1 g).
- Scale 2: For weighing 1 gram net-weight packages the grower could use a 500 g x 0.01 g scale.

This may include, but is not limited to packages of:
- Usable cannabis (buds, flowers)
- Edibles
- Topicals (ointments, creams, balms, emollients)
- Shatter (cannabis concentrate)

SALES BY VOLUME:

Cannabis products in liquid form are sold by volume, e.g., milliliters (ml) and fluid ounces (fl oz).

This may include, but is not limited to packages of:
- Oils
- Tinctures
- Extracts

For additional information, go online at [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/) or send an email to [DMS@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:DMS@cdfa.ca.gov).