

Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, California 95826

DMS Notice
D - 1 - 01

January 23, 2001

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

Subject: 2000 Statewide Computing Scale Survey

During the months of September and October 2000, and with assistance from county personnel, DMS specialists conducted a survey of 200 computing scales at 157 locations throughout the State.

The results of this survey, with a comparison to the 1995 computing scale survey, are shown in the attachment. The overall operational compliance level of this survey (95.32%) shows an improvement when compared to the 1995 survey (93.67%).

Your participation and assistance in this survey is, as always, greatly appreciated. These Statewide surveys provide important information to evaluate the effectiveness of our weights and measures programs and determine the appropriate use of resources.

If you have any questions regarding the conduct or results of the survey, please contact Roger Macey at (916) 229-3047.

Sincerely,

Mike Cleary
Director
(916) 229-3000

Attachment

STATEWIDE COMPUTING SCALE SURVEY

September/October 2000

SCOPE OF SURVEY

The survey sample included point-of-sale systems and electronic and mechanical scales with capacities from 6 lbs. to 50 lbs.

SAMPLE SELECTION

A sample of 200 scales at 157 locations was randomly selected on the basis of county population.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE

The sample was drawn from a list of locations with a maximum of three scales tested at any one location. Each scale was tested for compliance with all applicable requirements and readings were recorded at the 1 lb. and 5 lb. tests.

SURVEY RESULTS

One hundred eighty-two (182) of the scales (91%) were found to be operating within the required tolerance for accuracy, and only one scale (0.5%) was found out of tolerance on the overregistration side. The overall operational factor compliance level of the sampled scales was 95.32%.

A statistical comparison after removing extreme errors reveals a combined mean error of -0.01%, with a mean error of 0.00% at 1 lb. and -0.01% at 5 lbs.

A breakdown of the survey results, along with a comparison to the last statewide survey conducted in 1995, is as follows:

COMPUTING SCALE SURVEY				
Operational Factors Inspected	Possible Defects	Defects Found	2000 % Factor Compliance	1995 % Factor Compliance
Increasing Test	200	21	89.50	86.57
Decreasing Test	200	18	91.00	88.06
Shift Test	200	15	92.50	92.93
Computation	200	2	99.00	99.49
Clearance	200	4	98.00	96.50
Zero Shift	200	3	98.50	96.02
RFI/EMI	109	0	100.00	99.14
Zero Balance	200	2	99.00	95.48
Indicator	200	8	96.00	92.54
Printer	125	0	100.00	97.94
Other Operational Factors	111	18	83.78	85.88
TOTAL FACTORS	1945	91		