



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

DMS Notice
D – 10 – 4

July 8, 2010

Discard: July 1, 2011

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: CCR Scales Code Table 4 “Recommended” Minimum Test Weights and Test Loads

Recently the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural and Sealers Association proposed that the Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) bring the California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 9, Section 4002.2 Scales (2.20) and Table 4 into agreement with Handbook 44 by removing the word “recommended” from the section.

The DMS agrees with the recommendation and is reviewing CCR Section 2.20 for other possible updates through the administrative law process. In the interim please refer to DMS Notice D-96-2 (copy attached) for guidance regarding the mandatory use of minimum test weights and test loads.

Sincerely,

Edmund E. Williams
Director

Attachment



DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, California 95826

DMS NOTICE
D - 96 - 2



March 19, 1996

Discard: 3/98

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Handbook 44, Table 4 "Recommended" Minimum Test Weights and Test Loads

As you may recall, the "recommended" status of Table 4 regarding the minimum test weights and loads for scale tests, was eliminated in Handbook 44 in 1994. The requirement became mandatory at that time, but it was agreed that we would retain the "recommended" status in California until January 1, 1998, through an exception to the Handbook. At that time, several counties expressed concerns over logistical problems or with acquiring the additional certified weights necessary to perform the tests. It was felt that the additional four years would allow time for resolution of most of the problems.

Since that time, a significant amendment has been made to Handbook 44. The amendment substantially reduced the amount of certified weights required to test scales with a capacity of 301 to 40,000 pounds. For example, a 30,000 pound capacity livestock scale now requires only 3,750 pounds (12.5% of scale capacity), rather than the old requirement of 7,500 pounds (25% of scale capacity). This change may aid counties in their effort to comply with the new requirements.

Attached is a copy of the new Handbook 44, Table 4, which is scheduled to become mandatory in California on January 1, 1998. We recommend that counties review the new requirements to evaluate any additional equipment needs. Your Device Area Specialist is available to assist you. Should there be additional questions with respect to this subject, Dennis Johannes may be contacted at (916) 229-3047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Darrell A. Guensler'.

Darrell A. Guensler
Director
(916) 229-3000

Attachment

**Table 4.
Minimum Test Weights and Test Loads¹**

Device Capacity	Minimums (in terms of device capacity)		(where practicable)
	Test Weights (greater of)	Test Loads ²	
0 to 150 kg (0 to 300 lb)	100 %		
151 to 1 500 kg (301 to 3 000 lb)	25 % or 150 kg (300 lb)	75 %	Test weights to dial face capacity, 1 000 lb or test load to used capacity, if greater than minimums specified
1 501 to 20 000 kg (3 001 to 40 000 lb)	12.5 % or 500 kg (1 000 lb)	50 %	
20 001 kg+ (40 001 lb+)	12.5 % or 5 000 kg (10 000 lb)	25 %	During initial verification, a scale should be tested to capacity

¹ If the amount of test weight in Table 4 combined with the load on the scale would result in an unsafe condition, then the appropriate load will be determined by the official with statutory authority.

² The term "test load" means the sum of the combination of field standard test weights and any other applied load used in the conduct of a test using substitution test methods. Not more than three substitutions shall be used during substitution testing, after which the tolerances for strain load tests shall be applied to each set of test loads.

³ The scale shall be tested from zero to at least 12.5 % of scale capacity using known test weights, and then to at least 25 % of scale capacity using either a substitution or strain load test that utilizes known test weights of at least 12.5 % of scale capacity. Whenever practical, a strain load test should be conducted to the used capacity of the scale. When a strain load test is conducted, the tolerances apply only to the test weights or substitution test loads.

(Amended 1988, 1989, 1994, and 2003)

Note: GIPSA requires devices subject to their inspection to be tested to at least "used capacity," which is calculated based on the platform area of the scale and a weight factor assigned to the species of animal weighed on the scale. Used capacity is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Used Scale Capacity} = \text{Scale Platform Area} \times \text{Species Weight Factor}$$

Where species weight factor = 540 kg/m² (110 lb/ft²) for cattle, 340 kg/m² (70 lb/ft²) for calves and hogs, and 240 kg/m² (50 lb/ft²) for sheep and lambs.