



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

January 31, 2020

DMS NOTICE  
D – 20 – 01  
Retain Until Superseded

**TO:** WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT:** Suitable Scales for Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis: Further Clarification

The Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) wishes to provide further clarification to DMS Notice D-19-01R. This is due to some county officials interpreting DMS' recommendations as a required practice, to be followed in all cases and at all times with no exceptions. This interpretation of our recommendation is not consistent with the intent of DMS Notice D-19-01R.

The proper selection of suitable scales for the cannabis industry must be based upon the specific application in which they are used. While DMS still recommends the use of an Accuracy Class II scale whenever possible, there may be some cases where an Accuracy Class III scale may be the best or only choice for the application at hand. DMS wishes to emphasize that the county official is empowered to approve the suitability of scales for the cannabis industry, and obligated to take each business' unique situation into account when making a determination.

Any weighing and measuring equipment selection must be based upon the device's suitability for the specific application in which it is being installed. Some of the determining factors include, but are not limited to; weighing capacity; computing capability; character, number, size, and location of its indicating or recording elements; value of its smallest unit; and environmental factors such as the effects of airflow, weather, RFI, dirt, vibration; and any other factors that could impact the proper operation of the device. (CCR Title 4, Division 9, § 4000, NIST Handbook 44, General Code paragraphs G-UR.1.1. and G-UR.1.2.)

Cannabis provides a good example of a product that may need a combination of Accuracy Class II and III scales in an operation. Raw product weights must be entered into the Marijuana Enforcement Tracking Reporting Compliance (METRC), and since airflow and vibration have significant effects on weighing quality, a Class III scale may be most appropriate for use outdoors or in loosely controlled environments. As the cannabis is processed further into smaller and smaller quantities and finally into products for retail sale, Accuracy Class II scales used within a controlled environment may be more suitable. The suitability of the scale selection is made by the user and must be confirmed by the weights and measures official conducting the inspection.



The entire list of scales with an active NTEP Certificate of Conformance may be found on the National Conference on Weights and Measures' web site at: <https://www.ncwm.com/ntep-certificates>

If you have questions, please contact the Device Enforcement Program by email at [dms@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:dms@cdfa.ca.gov) or by telephone at 916.229.3000.

Sincerely,



Kristin Macey

Director

cc: Hyrum Eastman, County/State Liaison, CDFA

Registered Service Agencies – Weighing Devices (Precision/Laboratory Balances and Light Industrial)

Weighmasters Licensed in Cannabis-Related Activities