



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

June 20, 2024

DMS Notice
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Retain

TO: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Metron Farnier Water Submeters Model Altair 20

The Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) has recently received information that counties have received Metron Farnier brand water meters model Altair 20 which do not appear to match the applicable type evaluation certificate [National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Certificate of Conformance (CC) number 20-086].

Although the meters in question were marked with NTEP CC number 20-086, the meters did not match this type evaluation certificate due to configuration capabilities for which sealing provisions were not identified on the approval certificate. NTEP CC 20-086 identifies a Category 2 sealing provision with 2 (two) wire seals which prevent access to an optical switch; the optical switch being physical hardware required to allow access to a remote tablet or computer (one or two inches away from the optical switch) to make metrological changes.

It was reported by a County Official that a metrological change had occurred, without access through the optical switch, to meters which then subsequently failed inspection due to an incorrectly programmed decimal place. DMS CTEP staff were able to verify that Metron Farnier representatives were able to access the meters remotely and make the configuration changes without accessing the sealing provisions identified on NTEP CC 20-086.

It is the position of DMS that unrestricted remote configuration capabilities on a water meter constitute a Category 3 device and that an event logger must be incorporated in the device and identified on the applicable type evaluation certificate.

It is also the position of DMS that until NTEP CC 20-086 is updated to reflect a Category 3 sealing provision, any Metron Farnier model Altair 20 water meter sold or used for commercial purposes as defined by Business and Professions Code (BPC) Section (§) 12500(e) does not match a valid type evaluation certificate and is to be tagged as “Unapproved” under BPC § 12500.10 and should not be further inspected or tested.

If you have questions, please contact Kevin Schnepf at kevin.schnepf@cdfa.ca.gov or contact the DMS office at (916) 229-3000.





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Sincerely,

Kevin Schnepf
Director

cc: Hyrum Eastman, County/State Liaison

