



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

January 15, 2009

DMS Notice
M-09-1
Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Purchasing mercury-in-glass thermometers

This Division has been notified by the Department of Toxic Substance Control that since July 1, 2006, with few exceptions, mercury-added products have been banned from sale in California. The effect of this prohibition is that counties are not able to purchase replacement or additional mercury-in-glass thermometers. The exceptions to this ban include the use of a product required under a federal law or federal contract specification, or mercury-added button cell batteries. County weights and measures officials should keep this in mind as they budget for future purchases of thermometers.

For further details about this ban and/or exceptions, you may contact Renee Spears at the Department of Toxic Substance Control at (916) 324 8192 rspears@dtsc.ca.gov

This prohibition does not prevent the State Metrology Laboratory from certifying existing mercury-in-glass thermometers.

If you have any questions concerning the certification or the purchase of digital/electronic thermometers, please contact Greg Boers at (916) 229-3022 or gboers@cdfa.ca.gov or George Terrell at (916) 229-3024 or gterrell@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Edmund E. Williams
Director

cc: Kevin Masuhara, Director, County Liaison Office
Renee Spears, HSS, Department of Toxic Substance Control

