



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

DMS Notice  
M-09-3

March 17, 2009

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT: County Metrology Laboratory Program**

To date, eight counties have been certified by the Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) to perform various calibrations of 25, 50, 500 and 1000 lb weights and five-gallon test measures. This has been primarily for registered service agencies' test standards.

The Division was recently informed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Weights and Measures Division that we do not have the authority to permit counties to operate metrology laboratories under the umbrella of the NIST State Recognition Program or the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP – 200791-0). We have also been notified that the Division risks its own recognition and accreditation if the County Metrology Laboratory Program continues.

All county annual certifications issued by the Division's metrology program have expired and, because of this ruling by NIST, will not be renewed. Effective immediately, calibrations completed after March 18, 2009 under the Division's County Metrology Laboratory Program are not valid. Counties wanting to continue calibrating and certifying standards should seek individual recognition or accreditation from NIST. Division metrology staff will provide technical assistance with this process if requested.

If you have any questions concerning the discontinuance of the County Metrology Laboratory Program please contact DMS at (916) 229 3000 or [dms@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:dms@cdfa.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Edmund E. Williams  
Director

cc: Kevin Masuhara, Director, CDFA County State/Liaison

