

December 20, 2019

DMS Notice M-19-02
Discard: Retain

TO: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: New Mass Standards Purchasing Instructions

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Class F field standards should not be procured for legal metrology (weights and measures use) after January 1, 2020. This is in accordance with the recently revised NIST Handbook (HB) 105-1. NIST states this revision is in response to changes in the commercial weighing marketplace and the increased use of Class I and Class II commercial weighing devices. NIST Handbook 105-1 directs users to the international and national documentary standards OIML R111, and ASTM E617 respectively, for the selection of field standard weights.

NIST Class F weights manufactured after January 1, 2020 will not be accepted for certification by the California State Metrology Laboratory and will be considered unsuitable for use in legal metrology in the state. County departments of weights and measures with NIST Class F weights manufactured before January 1, 2020 may still use their standards for legal metrology and the California State Metrology Laboratory will continue to certify them. Additionally, NIST will continue to make NIST HB 105-1,1990 available as a reference for information about NIST F Class weights.

Counties and Registered Service Agencies that need to replace NIST Class F weights should purchase ASTM E617 Class 6 weights. These weights have the same tolerances as NIST F Class weights. Of all the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) weight classes, Class M₁ weight tolerances are closest to NIST Class F tolerances without being larger than NIST Class F tolerances. Of course, care should always be taken to evaluate the accuracy and precision required of mass standards to conform to NIST HB 44 Appendix A (Fundamental Considerations Associated with the Enforcement of NIST HB 44 Codes).

If you have any questions, please contact Tony Gruneisen at anthony.gruneisen@cdfa.ca.gov or Toni Bulai at Toni.Bulai@cdfa.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Kristin Macey
Director

cc: Hyrum Eastman, County/State Liaison, CDFA

