

Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, CA 95826

DMS NOTICE
QC - 01 - 3

September 14, 2001

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Statewide Pharmacy Products Survey

The statewide survey of pharmacy products, one of the priority marketplace evaluations identified in cooperation with the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, was completed in December 2000. Participating counties randomly selected and tested 671 items throughout the State. Your participation in this important survey was greatly appreciated.

The results of the survey show an average overfill of 2.98% for the products tested throughout the State. Of the 671 items tested, 49 were found to be underfilled. All underfilled products found during the survey were followed up with official lot inspections. One of the 17 subcategories surveyed had an average underfill.

The following attachments outline the parameters and results of the survey for individual subcategories as well as the category as a whole.

If you have any questions regarding this or other surveys, please contact Brett Saum at (916) 229-3047.

Sincerely,

Mike Cleary
Director
(916) 229-3000

Attachments

STATEWIDE PHARMACY COMMODITY SURVEY

Information for this statewide pharmacy commodity survey was collected by County Weights and Measures Officials during November and December 2000.

SAMPLE

Thirty-two retail items were to be selected in each of the following subcategories:

- 10.02 - Medications, N.E.C. (Not Elsewhere Classified)
- 10.03 - Internal Analgesics
- 10.04 - External Analgesics and Antiseptics
- 10.05 - Cough and Cold Items
- 10.06 - Laxatives
- 10.07 - Vitamins and Food Supplements
- 10.08 - Dentifrices, including Rinses and Mouthwashes
- 10.09 - Shaving Preparations
- 10.11 - Fragrances; Perfumes, Colognes and Toilet Water
- 10.12 - Other Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations
- 10.13 - Hair Products, including Shampoo
- 10.14 - Body Powder and Related Products
- 10.15 - Oils and Lotions
- 10.16 - Tapes; Adhesive and Other Medical Types
- 10.17 - Bandages; Adhesive and Compresses
- 10.40 - Pharmacy Products, N.E.C.

One hundred sixty retail items were to be selected for the following category:

- 10.50 - Pharmacy Products, Point of Pack

One hundred sixty items were to be selected at 32 packing locations (10.50 - Point of Pack). The sample from an individual packer consisted of five randomly selected items of any type or types of commodities in the 10.00 category. The total commodity sample size, retail and point of pack was to consist of 672 randomly selected individual items.

To insure that all regions of the State contributed to the survey, the counties were divided into four groups of approximately equivalent populations. Each group of counties selected and tested one quarter of the total sample for the survey.

SELECTION

Establishments visited for purchases were chosen randomly by participating counties using the criteria that no more than three items from a single subcategory and not more than 15 items overall were to be selected from the same retail establishment. All types of retail stores carrying pharmacy products were considered for purchases, not just supermarkets and food stores.

Packers were defined as any establishment weighing or measuring and labeling pharmacy products for retail sale. Packers were also chosen at random by the participating county.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE

After purchase, samples were taken to the local quantity control laboratory and tested for net content. Each package was opened to determine the actual net content, and then compared with the labeled net content to determine any error for that package.

2000 PHARMACY PRODUCT SURVEY

Category	Description	Number of Items Tested	Percent Compliance	Number Overfilled	Number No Error	Number Underfilled	Average Percent Error	Standard Deviation
10.02	Medications	32	100	13	19	0	1.39	2.93
10.03	Internal Analgesics	32	97	6	25	1	0.44	1.52
10.04	External Analgesics	32	100	25	7	0	6.49	12.00
10.05	Cough and Cold Items	32	100	12	20	0	1.34	2.19
10.06	Laxatives	32	97	14	17	1	1.03	2.92
10.07	Vitamins and Food Supplements	32	94	16	14	2	1.14	2.10
10.08	Dentifrices, including Rinses and Mouthwash	32	97	22	9	1	1.90	2.97
10.09	Shaving Preparations	32	75	22	2	8	2.57	5.91
10.11	Fragrances; Perfume, Cologne, Toilet Water	31	100	27	4	0	3.45	4.54
10.12	Other Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	32	97	28	3	1	17.51	54.78
10.13	Hair Products, including Shampoo	32	78	23	2	7	1.14	3.82
10.14	Body Powder and related Products	32	91	27	2	3	5.15	7.12
10.15	Oils and Lotions	32	88	22	6	4	2.53	6.47
10.16	Tapes; Adhesive and Other Medical Types	32	94	10	20	2	-0.51	9.26
10.17	Bandages, Adhesive and Compresses	32	97	8	23	1	1.46	5.20

10.40	Pharmacy Products, NEC	32	94	19	11	2	3.98	9.08
10.50	Pharmacy Products, Point of Pack	160	89	92	51	17	2.30	5.51
	Totals	671	93	386	235	50	2.98	13.56