



## SCALES USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

All scales used for commercial purposes must meet strict standards for accuracy and customer visibility in the California Code of Regulations. Appropriate and suitable scales must be of a type approved by the Division of Measurement Standards and issued either a [California Type Evaluation Program \(CTEP\)](#) Certificate of Approval or a [National Type Evaluation Program \(NTEP\) Certificate of Conformance](#) before commercial use. This process is known as "Type Evaluation."

### Step 1: Selecting a suitable scale to meet your business needs.

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Consider:

- Range of weighing (minimum and maximum capacities)
- Division (increment) size
- Precision (i.e., scales that comply with Accuracy Class I & II parameters)

[Legal-for-trade scales](#) purchased from a scale dealer or purchased online will require calibration before use. A [Registered Service Agency \(RSA\)](#) can assist you in the selection of a type approved and suitable scale. They will ensure the scale is accurate and correct, install and place the scale into commercial use pending inspection by a local weights and measures official, and can assist in the scale registration process.

### Step 2: Setting up your scale.

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- Scales must be installed and operated per the manufacturer's instructions and California laws and regulations.
- Scales must be placed on a level solid surface and properly used and maintained (refer to owner's manual).
- Legal-for-trade scales must be "inspected, tested and sealed" by a County Weights and Measures Office.
- Precision scales may need to be verified and recalibrated when moved to another location within a production facility or retail establishment.

### Step 3: Using and maintaining your scale.

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- Use the scale according to the owner's reference manual.
- Deduct "TARE" (packaging, wrappings, containers, labels etc.) to determine "NET" weight (NET = GROSS – TARE).
- The owner or user is responsible for ensuring the accuracy and proper maintenance of a commercial scale.
- EVERYBODY benefits from an accurate scale. The customer is not shortchanged, and the seller is protected by weights and measures officials who ensure a level playing field for all competing businesses.

### Step 4: Register a scale with your county.

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- Most California counties have local ordinances requiring annual registration of commercial scales.
- Contact your local [County Weights and Measures Office](#).

For additional information, go online at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/> or send an email to [DMS@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:DMS@cdfa.ca.gov). Please note that all embedded hyperlinks in this document are highlighted in blue for easy identification and access.



## SCALES USED FOR CANNABIS

**For Harvest Weights, Bulk Packaging, Net Weight Verification and Weight Verification for Track and Trace Reporting.**

Typical Class I & II Scale Capacities		Maximum Scale Division Size (Increments)*	
Metric Units kilogram (kg)	US Standard Units pound (lb)	Metric Units gram (g)	US Standard Units pound (lb)
0.5 kg (500 g)	1 lb	0.5 g	0.001 lb
5 kg	10 lb	5 g	0.01 lb
50 kg	100 lb	50 g	1.1 lb
50 kg +	100 lb +	500 g +	1.0 lb +

\***EXAMPLES:** Capacity= 100 kg: min. div. can be (0.001 kg, 0.002 kg, 0.005 kg or smaller)  
Capacity= 5000 lb: min. div. can be (1 lb, 0.2 lb, 0.5 lb, or smaller)

**For Retail Packaging, Net Weight Verification, and Retail Sales from Bulk.**

Typical Weighing Range	Maximum Scale Division Size (Increments)
0-1 gram (g)	0.01 g
Between 1-10 g	0.01 g
Between 10-100 g	0.1 g
Between 100-1,000 g	1 g
Between 1/8 ounce (oz) to 1/2 oz	0.005 oz (0.00002 lb) (0.1g) *
Between 1/2+ oz to 1 oz	0.005 oz (0.0002 lb) (0.1 g) *
Greater than 1 oz	0.005 oz (0.002 lb) (0.1 g) *

\*Conversions rounded to the nearest legal division size.

### SALES BY WEIGHT:

A business needs to determine weight of:

- containers/packages of trimmings,
- containers/packages of product, and
- packages of dried flower.

These different types of containers and packages will likely require scales of different capacities and division sizes due to basic suitability requirements.

- Scale 1: For weighing 1 lb net weight packages the grower could use a 1 kg x 0.001 kg scale (1000 g x 1 g).
- Scale 2: For weighing 1 gram net weight packages the grower could use a 500 g x 0.01 g scale.

This may include, but is not limited to packages of:

- Usable cannabis (buds, flowers)
- Edibles
- Topicals (ointments, creams, balms, emollients)
- Shatter (cannabis concentrate)

### SALES BY VOLUME:

Cannabis products in liquid form are sold by volume, e.g., milliliters (ml) and fluid ounces (fl oz).