



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Extracts from the
CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE
DIVISION 5 - WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**In the Areas of Weights and Measures, and
Fuels, Lubricants and Automotive Products**

CHAPTER 5.5 Service Agencies for Weighing and Measuring Devices
§§ 12501-12544



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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS

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DISCLAIMER

This document represents the Division of Measurement Standards extracts from the Business and Professions Code and is intended to serve as a field resource for weights and measures officials for enforcing the laws pertaining to weights and measures in California. It is not to be considered as official state law.

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DIVISION 5. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES 12001-13800

CHAPTER 1. General Provisions 12001-12027

CHAPTER 2. Administration 12100-12246

CHAPTER 3. Standards of Weights and Measures 12300-12314

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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

DIVISION 5

Weights and Measures

[Added by Stats. 1939 ch 43 § 1.]

CHAPTER 5.5 – Service Agencies for Weighing and Measuring Devices

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ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITIONS § 12531

§ 12531. MEANING AND SCOPE OF TERMS

As used in this chapter, the following definitions are applicable:

- (a) “Service agency” means a person, as defined in Section 12011, that for hire, award, commission, or any other payment of any kind, repairs a commercial device.
 - (b) “Service agent” means a person employed by a service agency to repair a commercial device.
 - (c) “Device” means a weighing or measuring equipment, contrivance, or instrument used, or designed to be used, for determining weight or measure, and includes any tool, appliance, or accessory used in connection therewith, that is used for commercial purposes, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 12500.
 - (d) “Placed in service” means to permit the use of a device that has been tested and found to be correct, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 12500, and type approved, as provided for in Section 12500.5.
 - (e) “Correct” means a device that meets all of the tolerance and specification requirements of Section 12107.
- “Repair,” in any of its variant forms, means to provide maintenance, or to install, adjust, recondition, or service a device.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.; Amended Stats. 2014 ch 539 § 5

ARTICLE 2. - REGISTRATION §§ 12532-12534

§ 12532. RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SERVICE AGENCY

- (a) No person shall engage in business as a service agency unless registered by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture pursuant to this chapter and unless the current registration fee and any penalty have been paid.
- (b) Applications for registration shall be in writing on a form prescribed by the department, and shall be accompanied by the required fee.
- (c) A service agency shall forward to the department the name or names of service agents employed by them, with the appropriate fees required by Section 12535.
- (d) A device may only be placed in service by a sealer or a service agency. A device used by a public utility in connection with measuring gas, electricity, water, steam, or communication service subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission is exempt from the requirements of this chapter.
- (e) Except as provided in subdivision (f), no person who repairs a device is required to be registered if the device is placed into service by a sealer or service agency.

(f) Vapor measuring devices operating at greater than 11 inches water column shall be installed by a service agency.

(g) In the event of any change in the legal status of a registered service agency, the new legal entity shall obtain a new registration prior to operating as a service agency.

(h) A service agency may employ or designate a licensed service agent to act for the service agency and shall be responsible for all acts of that person.

(i) If a device has been altered in such a way as to facilitate fraud, a service agency or service agent shall report it to the county sealer within 24 hours of discovering that the device has been altered. If the service agency or service agent has possession of the device or any mechanism, component, software, or other device attached to or used in conjunction with the device that serves to facilitate fraud, the service agency or service agent shall surrender the device, mechanism, component, software, or other device to the county sealer or local law enforcement within 24 hours of discovering that the device has been altered.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2; Amended Stats. 2016 ch 329 § 2.

§ 12533. STANDARDS AND TESTING EQUIPMENT

Prior to the issuance of its registration or in order to maintain its current registration, a service agency shall do all of the following:

- (a) (1) Possess, or have available for use, standards and testing equipment necessary to meet the minimum testing requirements contained in the “Notes” section of the specific device regulation set forth in Division 9 (commencing with Section 4000) of Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations, for each type of device for which the service agency is providing service.
- (2) When applicable, the standards and testing equipment shall meet the specifications and tolerances published in the most current National Institute of Standards and Technology 105 Series Handbooks for Field Standard Weights (NIST Class F), Field Standard Measuring Flasks, and Graduated Neck Type Volumetric Field Standards.
- (b) Ensure that every service agent in its employ has a current service agent license.
- (c) Possess a current copy of Division 9 (commencing with Section 4000) of Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations, Field Reference Manual.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

§ 12534. USE AND ACCURACY OF STANDARDS

Commencing January 1, 2001, a service agency shall use suitable and sufficient standards that are permanently and uniquely identified, and have a current certificate of accuracy provided by the department or by a laboratory certified pursuant to Section 12314, in the determination of a correct device.

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ARTICLE 3. – FEES §§ 12535-12537**§ 12535. FEES PAID BY SERVICE AGENCIES**

(a) An application for service agency registration shall be accompanied by an annual fee of two hundred dollars (\$200) for a primary maintenance location, and one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional maintenance location of the applicant, and twenty-five dollars (\$25) for every person employed by a service agency as a service agent.

(b) Each registration required by this chapter shall be renewed annually, on or before the first day of the first month of the service agency's registration year, by application to the department, accompanied by the annual registration fee. "Registration year" means the period of time beginning with the first day of the month the service agency is required to be registered in this state, and ending one year from date of issuance of the registration.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

§ 12536. FEES RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT

Fees received by the department pursuant to this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Food and Agriculture Fund to be used for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

§ 12537. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Sixty percent of the funds derived pursuant to this chapter shall be allocated by the secretary to counties that employ a sealer or director of weights and measures. The payment to each county shall be in proportion to the funds expended by the county in the enforcement of Division 5 (commencing with Section 12001).

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

ARTICLE 4 – EXAMINATIONS § 12540**§ 12540. SERVICE AGENT EXAMINATION AND LICENSING**

(a) Commencing on January 1, 2001, no person shall be employed by a service agency as a service agent unless he or she possesses a current license.

(b) Commencing on January 1, 2001, applicants for a service agent license shall pass a written examination on the laws and regulations governing weights and measures. A passing score of 70 percent or greater is required to qualify for a license pursuant to this chapter. Examinations developed by the department may be taken by appointment in any county sealer's office or at a location designated by the Division of Measurement Standards.

(c) An application for the examination to obtain a service agent license shall be in a form prescribed by the department and shall be accompanied by a fee established by the secretary to recover costs of examination administration, payable to the county in which the examination is given, or to the Division of Measurement Standards, if the examination is given by the department.

(d) Every service agent shall be reexamined every five years.

(f) To maintain a service agent license, the reexamination shall be taken and passed on or before the date on which the examination was last taken and passed.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

ARTICLE 5 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE § 12541**§ 12541. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

(a) The department shall establish a seven-member advisory committee consisting of the following members:

- (1) Two members representing registered service agencies.
- (2) Two members representing county sealers or directors of weights and measures.
- (3) One member representing device manufacturers.
- (4) One member representing industry clients of service agencies.
- (5) One member representing the general public.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (c), the term of office of the members of the committee is three years. Vacancies shall be filled by the department for any unexpired term.

(c) Initial appointments to the committee shall be made as follows:

- (1) One representative of registered service agencies, and one representative of county sealers or directors of weights and measures shall be appointed for one year.

- (2) One representative of device manufacturers, one representative of county sealers or directors of weights and measures, and one representative of industry clients of service agencies shall be appointed for two years.
- (3) One representative of registered service agencies, and one representative of the general public shall be appointed for three years.

(d) The committee shall be advisory to the department in all matters concerning the registration of service agencies.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

ARTICLE 6 - DISCIPLINARY ACTION §§ 12542-12544

§ 12542. REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OR DENIAL OF SERVICE AGENCY'S REGISTRATION

A service agency registration may be suspended for the actions of its service agents in violation of this division.

A service agency's registration may be revoked or suspended, or may be denied by the department, for any violation of this chapter. Proceedings for the denial, revocation, or suspension of a registration shall be in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. The department shall have all of the powers that are granted therein.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

§ 12543. COUNTY SEALER'S SUSPENSION OF SERVICE AGENCY'S AUTHORIZATION TO PLACE DEVICES INTO SERVICE

A service agency's authorization to place devices into service, or to remove out-of-order notices may be suspended by a county sealer, within his or her county, pursuant to the notice and hearing provisions described in Section 12544 for violations of this division.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.

§ 12544. NOTICE OF INTEND TO SUSPEND AUTHORIZATION OF SERVICE AGENCY: CONDITIONS

(a) A county sealer intending to suspend the authorization of a service agency shall notify the service agency in writing of all of the following:

- (1) The alleged violations to be used as the basis for suspension.
- (2) The proposed duration of the suspension.
- (3) The date the suspension is to begin, which may not be sooner than 20 days after a notice is mailed.
- (4) The names of service agents to be affected by the suspension.

- (5) The fact that the service agency or service agent shall be provided the opportunity for an investigational hearing prior to the suspension.
 - (6) The fact that the service agency or service agent may be represented by legal counsel.
 - (7) The fact that the service agency or service agent may appeal to the department prior to imposition of a suspension.
- (b) A copy of the proposed action to the service agency shall be immediately forwarded to the department.
- (c) The department may, as a result of the investigative hearing, declare the suspension to be effective in additional counties.

Added Stats. 1999 ch 364 § 2.