

COMMON TARES

Definition

A common tare weight is the average weight of a group (lot) of containers or pallets, determined by a weighmaster prior to the time of delivery of the product.

Authority Cited

Sections 12027, 12723, 12735, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 12722 and 12723, Business and Professions Code.

Responsibility

The California Business and Professions Code Section **12722(a)** states in part:

“...it is the responsibility of the party for whom the tare weight was established to maintain the tare weight within the variations prescribed by the director.”

The variations prescribed by the director are found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 9, Article 6, Section **4450** and reads in part as follows:

“...containers for which common tare weights have been established shall be maintained as close as practicable to the established tare weight, but in no event shall tare weights exceed the tolerance level of two tenths (0.2) pound or two percent (2%) of the established tare weight, whichever is greater.”

Instructions for Establishing Common Tare Weights

Verify zero balance of scale to be used.

Be sure your containers are 1,000 lbs. or less and within a uniform weight range. A preliminary determination would be to weigh a random sample individually, total the weight and divide by the number weighed, and check the individual weights against the average. If any container weights are different by 0.2 lbs. or 20%, whichever is greater, the containers are not within a uniform weight range. An example of an acceptable uniform weight range would be :

10 units weighed 1000 lbs average weight = 100 lbs

Lowest weight allowed for any individual unit is 90 lbs.

Highest weight allowed for any individual unit is 110 lbs.

Weight variation between units is 20 lbs = 20 percent of the 100 lbs average.

California Code of Regulations provides for the establishment of common tares based on containers or pallets used individually or containers used with pallets (palletized containers). If using containers or pallets individually, refer to number (1) below. If using containers with pallets (palletized containers), refer to number (2) on page 2.

1. If you are establishing a common tare **for pallets or containers which are used individually**, select a minimum random sample of 96 containers or pallets or; if less than 96 containers are in the lot, select all the containers in the lot.

2. If you are establishing a common tare **for palletized containers**, you must weigh randomly selected pallet loads (pallets with containers) based on the number of **containers stacked on a pallet**. Use the following table to determine the number of pallet loads to be weighed:

Number of Containers Per Pallet	Minimum Number of Pallet Loads to be Weighed
Less than 10	96 or 100%, whichever is less
10 -19	37 or 100%, whichever is less
20 - 49	22 or 100%, whichever is less
50 or more	11 or 100%, whichever is less

The sample shall be free from foreign material and in useable condition.

Determine the total container weight of the sample (if weighed on pallets, be sure to deduct the weight of the pallets) and divide by the number weighed. Round the average weight to the nearest 1/10 lb. if the containers or pallets average less than 30 lbs., and to the nearest 1 lb. if the containers average 30 lbs. or more.

Complete a weighmaster certificate(s) (example 3-6) and a Common Tare Notice (example 3-7) and mail the originals of both to the Division of Measurement Standards within 5 days. Maintain a copy of your completed Common Tare Notice at each weighing location where the common tare will be used.

The weighmaster certificate is to be completed containing all information required by law that is applicable to the transaction.

WEIGHMASTER CERTIFICATE			28765	
THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the following described commodity was weighed, measured, or counted by a weighmaster whose signature is on this certificate, who is a recognized authority of accuracy, as prescribed by Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 12700) of Division 5 of the California Business and Professions Code, administered by the Division of Measurement Standards of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.				
Weighed for: California Cannery & Growers				
Delivered to: California Cannery & Growers				
Driver: Art Smith Trucking				
WEIGHT IN LBS.		ABC SCALES - Weighmaster		
36,170	GROSS	By Susan Morris	DEPUTY - DATE	3/1/94
24,320	TARE	By Susan Morris	DEPUTY - DATE	3/1/94
11,850	NET	Weighed at 1500 Antelope Road Sunnyvale, CA 94086		VEHICLE LIC. # TRUCK 1X27339
REMARKS: To establish common tare weight on bins		UNITS 100	COMMODITY Bins - empty	MARKS Cal Can
			CCG - B - 1	TRAILER UL4139
				TRAILER UL4140

Issue weighmaster certificate when a **vehicle(s)** is part of the weighed load.

WEIGHMASTER CERTIFICATE			28766	
THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the following described commodity was weighed, measured, or counted by a weighmaster whose signature is on this certificate, who is a recognized authority of accuracy, as prescribed by Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 12700) of Division 5 of the California Business and Professions Code, administered by the Division of Measurement Standards of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.				
Weighed for: California Cannery & Growers				
Delivered to: California Cannery & Growers				
Driver:				
WEIGHT IN LBS.		ABC SCALES - Weighmaster		
TARE ONLY	GROSS	By	DEPUTY - DATE	
11,850	TARE	By Susan Morris	DEPUTY - DATE	3/1/94
TARE ONLY	NET	Weighed at 1500 Antelope Road Sunnyvale, CA 94086		VEHICLE LIC. # TRUCK
REMARKS: To establish common tare weight on bins		UNITS 100	COMMODITY Bins - empty	MARKS Cal Can
			CCG - B - 1	TRAILER
				TRAILER

Issue weighmaster certificate when **ONLY** the containers are weighed; without vehicle(s) as part of the weighed load. Issue a TARE ONLY certificate.

EXAMPLE

COMMON TARE NOTICE			
TO BE MAINTAINED AT EACH WEIGHING LOCATION USING THIS TARE. THE ACTUAL TARE SHALL NOT VARY FROM THIS COMMON TARE BY MORE THAN TWO-TENTHS (0.2) POUND OR TWO PERCENT (2%), WHICHEVER IS GREATER.			
CODE DESIGNATION <u>CCG-B-1</u>		EFFECTIVE DATE <u>3/15/1994</u>	COMMON TARE WEIGHT 119.0 lbs.
PROCESSOR / USER CALIFORNIA CANNERS AND GROWERS		BUSINESS PHONE 408-555-1515	DATE 3/1/1994
ADDRESS P.O. BOX 70130	CITY SUNNYVALE	STATE CA	ZIP CODE 94036
Established by Weighmaster Certificate Number(s) <u>28766</u> (attached) under the authority of California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 9, Chapter 9, Article 5, Sections 4440-4445			
Type of Tare:	Dimensions:	Dimensions in Inches:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exterior	<u>47</u> Length	
<input type="checkbox"/> Boxes	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior	<u>47</u> Width	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pallets		<u>28</u> Height	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Container Description <u>Solid plywood sides, vented bottoms, forklift protectors, corner caps and braces.</u>			
Outside runner is <u>3 1/2 X 1 3/4</u> inches.			
Marks <u>CAL CAN</u>			
Commodity <u>APPLES, PEARS</u>			
Storage Location(s)			
LOCATION ADDRESS 444 W. CALIFORNIA STREET		CITY SUNNYVALE	
LOCATION ADDRESS		CITY	
Number weighed <u>100</u>		Total number in use <u>500</u>	
Total container weight <u>11,850</u> lbs.		/ Number weighed <u>100</u> = Average weight 118.50 lbs.	
WEIGHMASTER NAME ABC SCALES		LICENSE # 0001	BUSINESS PHONE 408-555-5252
WEIGHING ADDRESS 1500 ANTELOPE ROAD		CITY SUNNYVALE	ZIP CODE 94086
SUSAN MORRIS		3/1/1994	
DEPUTY SIGNATURE		DATE	
The originals of this Common Tare Notice and the weighmaster certificate(s) issued to establish the common tare are to be mailed to the Division of Measurement Standards, 6790 Florin Perkins Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95828, (916) 229-3000, within five (5) business days.			

COMMON TARE NOTICE INSTRUCTIONS

The Common Tare Notice is to be completed based on the following instructions

1. Enter the name, phone number, date, address, city, state, and zip code of the company that will be using the containers that the Common Tare Notice is being completed for.
2. Enter the weighmaster certificate number(s) used to establish this common tare weight.
3. Check the type of containers, if a measurement is exterior or interior, and the length, width and height in inches.
4. Container description is to show type of construction and material (i.e., wood, plastic, plywood; number and kinds of boards; slats and runners).
5. Marks are the labels, trademarks and/or company names printed on the containers.
6. Commodities – Indicate the commodities the common tare will be used for, such as pears, peaches, and plums, or all commodities.
7. Enter the **complete street address** of each storage location where lot(s) sample(s) was taken.
8. Enter the number of containers, not the number of pallet loads and the total number in use.
9. Enter the **total container weight**, the **number weighed**, and the **average weight**. Total container weight is the weight of all the containers from the weighmaster certificates(s). Divide by the number weighed to get the average weight. The average weight is the mathematical average, **not** the common tare weight. The mathematical average weight is carried out at least one decimal point if above 30 lbs. and two decimal points if below 30 lbs.
10. Enter the weighmaster name, license number, business phone and address from the weighmaster license.
11. Enter the signature of the deputy weighmaster who established the common tare and date.
12. Enter code designation, effective date and common tare weight. CODE DESIGNATIONS are to be entered as **B-bins, P-pallets, and C-boxes or trays**. The code designation includes the **initials** of the company for whom the tare weight is established.

Examples: Jones Fruit Company primary (plastic) bins would be **JFC-B-1**
Jones Fruit Company secondary (wood) bins would be **JFC-B-2**
13. THE EFFECTIVE DATE is the date the company will begin using the tare, not necessarily the date the containers were weighed or the date the common tare notice was completed.
14. THE COMMON TARE WEIGHT is the average weight rounded to the nearest 1/10 lb. if under 30 lbs. or one (1) lb. if 30 lbs. or more.

RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMON TARE USER

The California Business and Professions Code Section 12722(a) states in part:

“...it is the responsibility of the party for whom the tare weight was established to maintain the tare weight within the variations prescribed by the director.”

The variations prescribed by the director are found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 9, Article 6, Section 4450 and reads in part as follows:

“...containers for which ... common tare weights have been established shall be maintained as close as practicable to the established tare weight, but in no event shall tare weights exceed the tolerance level of two tenths (0.2) pound or two percent (2%) of the established tare weight, whichever is greater.”

If the Common Tare is maintained within the above tolerances it does not have to be re-established each year or season.

COMMON TARE NOTICE

TO BE MAINTAINED AT EACH WEIGHING LOCATION USING THIS TARE. THE ACTUAL TARE SHALL NOT VARY FROM THIS COMMON TARE BY MORE THAN TWO-TENTHS (0.2) POUND OR TWO PERCENT (2%), WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

CODE DESIGNATION _____ EFFECTIVE DATE _____ COMMON TARE WEIGHT lbs.

PROCESSOR / USER		BUSINESS PHONE	DATE
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE ZIP CODE

Established by Weighmaster Certificate Number(s) _____ (attached) under the authority of Title 4, Division 9, Chap. 9, Article 5, Sec. 4440-4443.

Type of Tare:

- Bins
- Boxes
- Pallets
- Other

Dimensions:

- Exterior
- Interior

Dimensions in Inches:

_____ Length
 _____ Width
 _____ Height

Container Description _____

Marks _____

Commodity _____

Storage Location(s)

LOCATION ADDRESS	CITY
LOCATION ADDRESS	CITY

Number weighed _____ Total number in use _____

Total container weight _____ lbs. / Number weighed _____ = Average weight lbs.

WEIGHMASTER NAME		LICENSE NUMBER	BUSINESS PHONE
WEIGHING ADDRESS		CITY	ZIP CODE

DEPUTY SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

The originals of this Common Tare Notice and the weighmaster certificate(s) issued to establish the common tare are to be mailed to the Division of Measurement Standards, 6790 Florin Perkins Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95828, (916) 229-3000, within five (5) business days. rev. 10/04

Certificate Requirements

A common tare weight may be used by a weighmaster to determine the net weight of a commodity, provided the following information appears on the weighmaster certificate:

The fact that a common tare weight is being used. This may be designated by the letters "C.T.", and the common tare weight, description of the container, and a name of the person or firm for whom the common tare weight has been established. A code designation may be used in lieu of the description of the container, provided this code also appears on the common tare notice.

Conditions of Use

The following conditions apply to the use of common tare weights:

- Common tare weights may only be used by a weighmaster licensed at the location at which a copy of the Common Tare Notice is maintained; and
- Common tare weights may be used by a weighmaster unless a party having a legal or financial interest in the transaction notifies the weighmaster prior to issuance of the certificate that a common tare weight shall not be used; and
- The weighmaster certifying to a common tare weight shall verify that the total number of containers includes not more than 10% of other user containers and that all containers are within a uniform weight range; and
- A weighmaster shall not use a common tare weight if for any reason it appears that the common tare weight may not meet the tolerance levels prescribed by Section **4450 CCR**.

Verification

A weighmaster may verify the accuracy of an established common tare weight by weighing a representative sample of containers, as prescribed, and by rounding as prescribed. If a common tare weight is found to be beyond the tolerance levels the common tare weight must not be used until re-established by a weighmaster.

The following procedure would be used to verify the accuracy of common tare weights:

1. Verify the balance zero and minimum resolution to determine acceptability of the scale. Select a suitable sample of in-use containers, weigh them, divide the weight by the amount of units weighed and determine if the average is within +/- 2% of the established common tare weight. If average exceeds the tolerance then increase the sample size up to but not exceeding the number used to establish the common tare. Look for units outside the 20% Uniform Weight or other factors that could be affecting the averages. Units outside the 20% Uniform Weight must be removed from use until weight condition is solved.

WEIGHMASTER CERTIFICATE			22235	
THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the following described commodity was weighed, measured, or counted by a weighmaster, whose signature is on this certificate, who is a recognized authority of accuracy, as prescribed by Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 12700) of				
Weighed for: ACME FRUIT				
Delivered to: CALIFORNIA CANNERS & GROWERS				
Driver: Art Smith, Smith Trucking				
WEIGHT IN LBS.		ABC SCALES - Weighmaster		
78,680 GROSS	By Susan Morris		DEPUTY - DATE	3/1/2001
27,680 VEH TARE	By Susan Morris		DEPUTY - DATE	3/1/2001
5,712 CT	Weighed at		VEHICLE LIC. #	
45,128 NET	1500 Antelope Road Sunnyvale, CA 94086		TRUCK 1X27339	
REMARKS: AF-B-1 CT 119 LBS	UNITS	COMMODITY	MARKS	TRAILER
	48	FUJI APPLES	Cal Can	UL4139
				TRAILER UL4140