



California Type Evaluation Program

Description

Type evaluation is the examination of weighing or measuring devices for the legal purpose of certifying that its design and performance complies with all applicable weights and measures requirements. It is unlawful for a device to be placed into commercial use unless it is of a type approved by the Department. The California Type Evaluation Program (CTEP) helps industry by evaluating, testing, and approving new commercial weighing and measuring devices. Two types of certificates are issued; "California Only" or National. Devices that pass testing and receive certificates of conformance may be used for trade.

Activities

Program staff works with industry to evaluate and test new devices that are intended to be used for commercial transactions. Devices must meet or exceed the minimum requirements as described in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44, in order to receive a California Certificate of Approval or a National Certificate of Conformance.

Program Importance

Type approval examination allows new and modified devices to be evaluated for compliance with Weights and Measures requirements before they are installed and used in commercial applications. The use of certified devices ensures that equipment is accurate, reliable, and does not facilitate fraud, thus saving businesses and consumers money.

Budget

Until fiscal year 2011/12, the Program was funded entirely by General Funds. The Program is now supported by the Agriculture Fund through reimbursements for services performed and an annual administrative fee for maintaining the type approval certificates.

Staffing

State staffing has gone from 5 evaluators with one supervisor overseeing projects in 2008 to two evaluators (measurement specialist and weighing device specialist) and supervision from the Branch Chief.

Forecast

Advances in technology help leverage California businesses to the forefront of all markets. The loss of General Funds for this program has required a change in its business model. All work performed by staff must be paid for up front by the manufacturer. To keep costs at a minimum for prospective clients, they are directed to self help guides on the website instead of direct support from staff.

Program staff are unable to follow up on reports that certain devices appear to deviate from the model that was type evaluated (“production does not meet type”). Devices that should undergo additional testing to verify metrological integrity are not receiving additional examination; over time this may erode the validity of the Program.

For more information, please contact:

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