
GUIDANCE NOTES FOR TRADERS

TIL1 WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT

This leaflet has been prepared for the guidance of traders by West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service. It is a brief summary of the law and further details can be obtained from the West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service at Nepshaw Lane South, PO Box 5, Morley, Leeds LS27 0QP
Tel No: 0113 253 0241.

WHAT DOES THIS LEAFLET COVER?

Trade use of weighing and measuring equipment such as weights, weighing machines, liquid measures and length measures.

Use for trade means any determination of weight, length area or capacity upon which the price charged is calculated.

HOW DO I KNOW MY EQUIPMENT IS SUITABLE FOR TRADE USE?

Virtually all trade equipment is required to bear a stamp or mark to show that it is suitable and accurate. The stamp comprises a crown, a number, & the year



1234
2004

Some weighing equipment may have an EC verification mark, which is the "CE" mark and a black "M" on a green background



Weights and scales intended for kitchen use are not stampable and thus cannot be used for trade purposes.

WHERE IS THE STAMP?

The Crown stamp can be found:

- on the bottom of a weight
- by the 1cm mark on a metre stick or tape measure
- on lead plugs on a weighing machine

The EC verification mark can be found:

- as stickers applied to a weighing machine
- printed on the chassis of the weighing machine

WHAT ABOUT MAINTAINING ACCURACY?

Generally, it is wise to have weighing equipment maintained by a competent scale firm.

If an officer finds the equipment outside the permitted tolerances he will reject it by obliterating the stamp with a six-pointed star. It then is an offence to use the equipment before it is repaired and restamped.

It is also an offence to use equipment which is seriously inaccurate

WHAT ARE COMMON CAUSES OF INACCURACY?

With weighing machines the most common, and avoidable, causes of inaccuracy are: -

- using the machine when it is “out of level”. Most scales are fitted with a spirit level, and can weigh incorrectly if they are not level. Check the spirit level whenever the scale is moved, especially after cleaning. This is especially important for market or mobile traders.
- using the machine when the indicator does not start exactly on zero.
- debris caught in the mechanism.
- the weighing plate catching on the frame or counter
- storing invoices etc. under the machine

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN EQUIPMENT?

There is a list of known suppliers attached. You should ensure that the machines can be converted to display in euros if required.

WEIGHING AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS

Weighing Equipment

See Yellow Pages under "Scales and Weighing Equipment"

Weights:

Allan Buckle 0113 253 6593
7 Millcroft
Gildersome
LS27 7EP

Autoweigh Scales 01422 376965
James Street
Elland
HX5 OHB

Halifax Scale & Co 01422 201016
Brighouse Road
Hipperholme
HX3 8EF

Barr & Grosvenor Ltd 01902 352390
Jenner Street
Wolverhampton
WV2 2AE

Industrial Scales 01924 465169
Unit 31
Anchor Bridge West
Dewsbury
WF12 9QS

Linear Measures (e.g. Metre Sticks)

Samuel Taylor
10 Central Road
Leeds LS1 6DE
0113 245 9739

Globe Trade Warehouse
Globe Mills
White Abbey Road
Bradford BD8
01274 732 826

Timothy Wood Limited
Units 1 & 2
Bradley Mills Industrial Estate
Huddersfield HD1 6PQ
01484 440000

Dixon Hall
Various branches

Capacity Measures

Metal Measures

I.G.E. Hartle Limited
Paycocke Road
Basildon
Essex SS14 3HH
01268 520496

Glass measures,
See yellow pages for Laboratory Equipment