



SCALE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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Responses to the 2009 W&M Directors Questions

(Non-Attributable Version)

Question 1: Does your state / jurisdiction have notification requirements for service agents and service agencies? If yes, do you require notification for:

- a. Routine maintenance that does not include adjustment to sealable parameters between official inspections?
- b. Minor adjustments to maintain the device within acceptance tolerance?
- c. Major overhaul even though the device was not rejected after an official inspection?

CENTRAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (CWMA)

Yes, we require notification. No, we do not require notification after routine maintenance (a). No for part b. Notification is required for new installations. Yes, after a major overhaul.

Yes, we require service reports. A major overhaul requires a report.

Yes, we require notification. We require notification any time a test is conducted.

Yes, we require notification. No to question a but if an adjustment is made, then yes. No to question b and yes to question c.

Yes, we require notification. Yes to all three questions (a, b, and c). We also require a report for new installations.

Yes, we require notification. Notification is not required for routine maintenance as described in a. Yes to b. and c. Any time an adjustment is made, a report is required.

Yes, we require notification. Notification is not required for routine maintenance as described in a. Reports are not required on devices that have not been rejected. Yes to question c.

Yes, we require notification. Any time the device is returned to service, a report is required.

Not for a new device but only if it has been rejected and returned to service. We require an annual report on motor fuel dispensers and vehicle scales.

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (NEWMA)

Yes, we require notification. Yes to all three questions (a, b, and c). Notification can be made by the Service Technician or the Device Owner.

No, we do not register Service Technicians. It is the Device Owners responsibility to notify the State. Notification is not required for routine maintenance as described in a. No to question b, unless you break a seal. and Yes to question c. You must have a device inspected and sealed by an official.

Yes, we require notification. Notification is not required for routine maintenance as described in a. Yes to b. and c.

No, we do not register Service Technicians. It is the Device Owners responsibility to notify the State. Notification is not required for routine maintenance as described in a. No to question b unless you break a seal. Yes to question c. In general, NY does not care who provides notification, device owner or service technician.

SOUTHERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (SWMA)

Yes, we have notification requirements for service agents. We do not require notification for routine maintenance or minor adjustments. If we place a red tag on a device, you must be licensed with the state and complete the form on the back of the tag and send it to us before returning the scale to service. A test report is required after replacement or repair of a device. In order to be licensed, you must have adequate equipment and standards.

No notification is required if it doesn't affect calibration and is routine in nature. Yes to questions b and c. Note that a test report is required.

"No" to all three questions. We have voluntary registration of service agents (no test but you must have appropriate equipment and standards). We do require a placed-in-service report for new installations and when a device is returned to service.

We do register scale service technicians. We do not require notification for routine maintenance but do require it when an adjustment is made. No report is required for a major overhaul.

Yes, we do register scale service agents. We have the authority to require completion of a test prior to registration but currently do not do so. "No" to question A and "Yes" to questions B and C.

We have voluntary registration. "No" to question A and "Yes" to both questions B and C.

We do register scale service technicians and require them to report on all activities. We probably wouldn't be too upset about not being advised of minor adjustments.

We also register scale service technicians and require them to notify us anytime a seal is broken. "No" to question A unless it the device was tagged then notification would be required. "Yes" to both questions B and C.

We do register scale service technicians and require that they pass an exam and charge \$50 per class of device serviced. The registration is good for five years. "Yes" to all three questions; A, B, and C.

We require notification when a new device is installed or an existing device is returned to service. No other notification is required unless it is to address a device that had been red tagged.

No notification is required on routine maintenance unless the device is moved to another location. Placed-in-service reports are required on new installations or for major overhauls.

WESTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (WWMA)

Yes, service providers must notify our office within ten days of placing in service a new commercial device. "Placing in service" means placing in use any new, used, repaired, or reconditioned weighing and measuring device. We generally do not require notification of routine maintenance that doesn't include calibration adjustments. Notification is required after a major overhaul of the scale.

Yes, we must be notified any time the calibration seal is broken. A placed in service report is required for all new devices and those being returned to service after overhaul. Scales greater than 2000 pounds capacity require an actual test report including weight readings.

Yes, in all cases. The scale service agency is to notify the appropriate jurisdiction of the work that has taken place. The local jurisdiction may or may not follow up.

No to question "a". For question "b", we need to know that the device is within acceptance tolerance. For question "c", yes, we need to know why the seal was broken and we need a placed in service report. Regulations have changed such

that it is now required that a performance test of the device must be passed. We have implemented this policy with pumps and are now moving to scales.

Yes. We require a placed in service report. No to questions “a”, “b”, and “c”.

We do have a provision that requires registered scale service agencies to file a placed in service report for new or returned to service scales. Currently registration of the service agency is voluntary but we are considering making it mandatory. Currently the responsibility for notification of weights and measures officials falls on the device owner but it is common practice for the scale service company to take this on. Our inspectors typically travel to scale sites with the service agency representatives because of the distances involved.

We do have a law in place that requires that we be notified before the installation of a device.

Yes. We have notification requirements for registered service agents. We request that our service agents notify us if any of the described work is performed on a scale in questions 1a. and 1b. Yes to question 1c.

- 2. Question 2: The NCWM is looking for ways to increase membership and is considering changing the NTEP online database such that only conference members can view and download copies of NTEP CCs. Note that this will not affect the ability to search for CCs or look up contact information. If enacted, how will this impact your jurisdiction?**

CENTRAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (CWMA)

Such a change will have a significant impact on us. Our field inspectors have laptops and look up NTEP CCs on line.

I don't know at this time. Our field inspectors normally call our office to check on NTEP CCs.

It would lock out some of the service companies that we require to know about the certificates and be able to look up device specifications and requirements.

Yes, it will have an impact on us. Our field inspectors have laptops and look up certificates in the field.

It will have a negative impact on us. We require a copy of the NTEP CC be provided with the placed in service report. Service companies use the current NTEP CC website to obtain and print these certificates. We also use it to assist consumers who inquire about the purchase of a particular model device.

All of our field inspectors (who are NCWM members) have laptops with a wireless interface and are able to look up certificates while in the field. We could get by but feel unrestricted access is important.

It wouldn't affect us since we're all members of the conference. We frequently use PCs to check on a certificate but currently have no laptops in the field.

All of our field inspectors have laptops and are NCWM members. In spite of that, we are concerned about some of our jurisdictions within the state that access the certificates but are not conference members.

All of our field inspectors are conference members. Most of our local jurisdictions are also members and should be supportive of the conference. We expect some service companies to access this information. We don't want to keep this information from them.

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (NEWMA)

It wouldn't affect us since we're all members of the conference.

This would be a tool to justify membership in the NCWM.

All of our staff are NCWM members. It wouldn't affect us.

All of our State inspectors are NCWM members and we encourage the Counties to join the NCWM. However; if this change was put in place it would tax the State office with County inquiries.

SOUTHERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (SWMA)

Question was not asked.

WESTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (WWMA)

Question was not asked.

Question 3: Advancements in software, digital device technology and manufacturing practices have created the possibility for field replacement of 'digital' load cells or the corresponding 'digital' display terminal without the need to recalibrate the scale while ensuring performance within HB44 tolerances. Knowing this, would you permit this in your jurisdiction? If not, why?

CENTRAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (CWMA)

Our laws require a test report and this testing must be conducted using test weights. We would not allow this.

If you don't prove the performance of the device is within tolerance, how do you know that it is? A placed in service report is required.

We would require a placed in service report which requires testing.

Yes, but a placed in service report would have to be completed for the replacement of an indicator and a test report for replacement of load cells.

Maybe. We would allow this for a temporary period. If subsequent field tests show no problems, we would continue to allow the practice, but, if not, we would respond accordingly.

No. Verification is required.

We understand that this technology could exist. We would have to look at our state laws a little closer to see if this is allowed. Maybe we would allow it down the road.

We require evidence to show that the calibration remains unchanged.

We don't oppose it at this time.

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (NEWMA)

Maybe, but we would probably require a test.

"Show me", we require evidence to show that the calibration remains unchanged.

We would require more data and history before we would make a decision.

No, but we may not require a full blown test. The device still must meet all HB 44 requirements.

SOUTHERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (SWMA)

If any major component is replaced, a test is required.

No. A test is required.

No. You must have test weights in order to place it back into service.

No. A test is required.

Not sure whether this meets the intent of the placed-in-service report requirements.

No. A test would be required

No, verification of performance is needed.

No.

No. Verification is required.

Verification is needed. Technically, you might be able to do this without having weights for testing but some adequate means of verification is required.

WESTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION (WWMA)

Unless the accuracy could be guaranteed using this alternate method, we would have reservations about accepting this “digital only” calibration as opposed to a calibration with certified and approved mass standards. Our initial investigations suggest that digital only may not be as accurate.

We require a test report for scales greater than 2000 pounds in capacity. Other scales are probably alright.

Yes, we would permit it.

No, not without testing. We trust but verify.

We require a placed in service report and would do a follow up test.

Basically, no. Will metrological integrity be maintained under such a practice? We are concerned that if this is allowed, it may foster facilitation of fraud.

We appreciate the fact that technology has advanced but we are not comfortable with what we’ve seen from repair companies. We track devices by serial number of the indicator. If the indicator changes in this scenario it would be problematic in proving that metrological integrity has been maintained.

No. We request service agents notify us of this level of technical work performed on scale. We don’t feel that our staff has the qualifications to determine if this level of technical work will affect a scale. If the scale was not recalibrated, we request they provide a statement describing the work performed on the scale and that it will not affect the calibration.