



SCALE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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2015 SMA Questions for State Directors

1. **Most states have a Service Technician Registration Program. Please explain the process your state requires to place a weighing device into service.**

NORTHEAST WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

CONNECTICUT – We have a \$20 fee for registration of service technicians but no test is required. They must submit the placed in service report within 48 hours of performing the work.

MAINE – Our state has a \$25 fee and requires that the weights used by the service technician be certified by a recognized lab. There is no test for scale service technicians. We require that the placed in service report be submitted (electronically or via USPS) within ten days of placing it in service.

MASSACHUSETTS – We have no registration requirements.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – We do have a \$20 fee and require that the service technician pass a test on scales. Placed in service forms are available on-line or may be purchased from our office and the reports are due within five business days of placing a scale in service. We also require that the test weights used be certified on an annual basis.

NEW YORK – We do not register service companies. We require notification of placing a device in service.

PENNSYLVANIA – We register service technicians but do not require a test. They are to contact us within 48 hours of placing a device into service.

VERMONT – We require that service technicians register with us and pay a \$50 fee. There is no test required. Standards must be calibrated by a recognized lab on an annual basis. We require that a test report be submitted within 48 hours of placing a device in service.

CENTRAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

ILLINOIS – We require a \$100 fee for registration of the service company and a \$30 fee for registration of the individual technician. A one-time test is required for registration. Placed in service reports and annual calibration of standards are required. A 4-digit number assigned by the department must be applied to the appropriate seal.

INDIANA – We have no registration requirements for service technicians at this time.

IOWA – Service technicians are required to register annually. Standards used must be calibrated annually by a state lab. There is a \$5 fee for registration of service technicians. We are planning to conduct H44 training.

KANSAS – Registration of service technicians is required in our state. A \$50 fee is charged for the Company. Each technician must pay a \$20 fee and attend a four hour class followed by a test. Calibration of standards on an annual basis by a certified lab is also required. Placed in service reports are due within 10 days.

MICHIGAN – We have a program to register service companies and individual service technicians. There is a \$300 fee for registration of the company and a \$100 fee for each technician. These fees are required every two years. Standards must be calibrated once every two years by a certified lab. A placed in service report is required within five days and must be submitted in paper form.

MINNESOTA – Our state does have a program for registration of service technicians. The applicant is required to take a class and pass an exam on Handbook 44 and the type of devices to be serviced. We will be eliminating this class and putting the information on-line. There is a \$10 fee for technicians and service companies. Standards are to be calibrated annually. We are harmonizing our tests with those from Wisconsin and the test is good for five years. Placed in service reports may be filed either in paper form or electronically.

MISSOURI – No fees are required for registration of service technicians but an exam is. Standards are to be calibrated once every two years. Placed in service reports must be filed within 24 hours of placing the device in service and must be filed using a special form available from our office.

NEBRASKA – We have a registration program that requires the applicant pass a device-specific exam for each type of device they service. There is a \$45 fee for each technician. Standards must be calibrated annually by a state lab. Our state lab is currently closed but will open soon. A placed in service report is required and can be submitted either on paper or in electronic form.

OHIO – We do have a program for registration of service technicians. We are currently in process of making changes to our program. There is a \$100 annual fee for each technician and a \$200 fee for registration of the company. The technician must pass a test once every two years. Standards are to be calibrated by a certified lab once every two years. The technician must notify a state official before breaking the seal on the device. Placed in service reports can be filed either in paper form or electronically.

SOUTH DAKOTA – We also have a program for registration of service technicians. There is a \$69 fee plus a \$10 fee for each technician. Standards are to be calibrated by a certified lab on an annual basis. No written test for registration of technicians is currently required. Placed in service reports are due within ten days and we do allow submission of the reports in electronic form.

WISCONSIN – We have a program for registration of service technicians and require that a technician pay a \$30 fee and pass an exam that is good for five years. A \$280 fee is charged for the company with an additional \$85 fee for each additional business location. Standards are to be calibrated every two years by a certified lab. Placed in service reports must be submitted within ten days and can be submitted either on paper or electronically.

WESTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

ALASKA – We have no program for registration of service agencies or their technicians.

CALIFORNIA – The State of California has a registered service agency program. A device may only be placed into service by a sealer or a service agency. A sealer includes the State Sealer, a county sealer and their deputies and inspectors. However, devices used by a public utility in connection with measuring gas, Electricity, water, steam or communications service is subject to the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission and is exempt from the requirement. A placed in service report is required within 24 hours of placing the device in service. Electronic or paper submissions are acceptable. Standards must be certified every two years. We may or may not accept certification of standards from other labs depending on the lab's qualifications. LA County requires notice within 24 hours of any adjustment made to the device. An ID tag that identifies the servicing agency must be applied to the device.

COLORADO – Our Department of Agriculture handles this.

IDAHO – We have a voluntary service registration program. No test is required. You must have applicable standards that have been calibrated within the last two years by a NIST-certified lab. Unregistered owners and their agents may repair a device, but you must be registered in order to place into service. A placed in service report is required within 24 hours of placing the device in service.

MONTANA – We have a voluntary program for both agencies and technicians with a twenty-five dollar annual fee. A placed in service report filed electronically or in paper form is required within five days of placing a device in service. Standards must be calibrated every two years at a NTEP-certified lab. You must be registered in order to place a device in service.

NEW MEXICO – Yes, we have a registration program for agencies and technicians. A placed in service report must be filed electronically or mailed within five days of placing the device in service. Anyone can work on the device but they must be registered in order to place them in service. No test is required for a technician. Annual fees are \$150 for the agency and \$50 for each technician.

OREGON – We have no program for registration of service agencies or their technicians, but a placed in service report is required when a device is installed or repaired following official rejection.

UTAH – Registration of the technician is required. Placed in service reports are to be filed on-line within 24 hours of placing the device in service. We require the registration of the service agency's seal with an identifying mark unique to each technician. An annual fee of \$15 is required for each technician while no fee is required for the agency. Standards are to be calibrated every two years by a lab that has been NIST certified.

WASHINGTON – We registered both the agency and the technician. The technician registration is tied to the agency which means if the technician leaves one agency for another they must re-register. Registration is required each year and the fee is \$160 per technician. Standards are to be calibrated once every two years by a NIST-certified lab

WYOMING – A \$25 annual fee is required for registration of the agency. Each technician is required to pass a test annually. There is also a \$40 examination fee for each time an individual takes the exam. Test standards must be calibrated once every two years by a NIST-

certified lab. Placed in service reports are to be filed on-line within 24 hours of placing the device in service.

SOUTHERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

Alabama: Service technicians must register annually; \$100 fee per year for registration. Technicians are not required to take a test. Test standards must be tested by a NIST approved laboratory. We have different categories of licenses depending on scale capacity. Placed in Service reports are due within 24hrs; all done online. You must be a registered technician to access the web site.

Arkansas: There is no fee to become a registered service agency. However, test equipment must be tested annually. We will accept certification from any accredited lab. Scale Service Technicians wishing to be added to their company's Service Agency Registration must review the appropriate training module and complete the Service Technician Obligation Agreement. Commercial Devices must be tested annually by a registered service technician. We accept Faxed Placed in Service reports; cannot accept Faxed test reports. They are due within 24 hours.

Florida: We have a voluntary service registration program. There are no fees. The Certificate of Registration for each Serviceperson or Service Agency shall expire two years from the date of issuance. Standards and Testing Equipment used by Servicepersons or Service Agencies shall be examined and recertified at least biennially. Placed in Service reports must be mailed, emailed, or Faxed within 24 hours.

Georgia: Scale service companies and each technician must register with our office. There are no fees, but the Company must be bonded and each technician must take a test. Test standards must be calibrated every two years. Placed in Service report must be sent to our office within 5 days by email/fax.

Kentucky: Registration Fee is \$50.00 for the agency and \$20 for each service person. Placed in Service report must be mailed to our office within 24 hours after the work has been completed. Test standards must be calibrated every two years.

Maryland: We have a voluntary program. Each service company and service technician must submit an application plus a one time \$25 fee. The biennial fee (occurring every second year) is \$200.00 for a Service Agency and \$50.00 for each Service Technician. Technicians must pass a qualifying examination; standards must be calibrated every two years and placed in service reports need to be submitted within 5 days.

Mississippi: The annual fee for a Scale Service Repair Company license is \$100.00 and the annual fee for the Scale Service Repairmen license is \$50.00. We require annual certification of test weights. A placed in service report is required and must be submitted to our office within 3 days by mail, fax, or email. Also, an installation permit is required for all scales with a capacity of 10,000 pounds or more.

North Carolina: Scale Service Technicians must register annually and pay a \$20 fee. Companies are not registered. There is no timeframe on Placed in Service notifications. We accept Faxed/email/written notifications; there is no standard form. Test Standards can be calibrated by our Metrology Laboratory or by another state or another NVLAP or A2LA accredited laboratory. Weights of 50 pounds or less must be tested annually. Weights over 50 pounds and weight carts must be tested every other year.

South Carolina: We have a voluntary service registration program. Standards must be calibrated every two years. Technicians must be registered; a \$25 fee every two years. Placed in Service reports must be submitted to our office.

Tennessee: Service technicians and companies must be registered. The fee is \$36 for two years per individual and \$80 for two years for companies. Standards must BE calibrated every two years (traceable to NIST). Standardized Placed in Service forms must be returned within 24hrs via mail/email/FAX. Technicians are not required to be tested.

Texas: Licensed Service Companies must register annually. The service company must pay a \$100 fee for each device category (7 categories). The company must notify our office within 10 days after a device is placed in service. The form must be completed and submitted to a regional office via FAX/mail. Service technicians must be registered. A technician must take an exam for each device category (7 categories) and pay a \$60 fee per exam. The license is good for five years. Standards must be calibrated on an annual basis.

Virginia: Service technicians must be registered. Classes are offered three times per year. Annual registration fees are \$100 for company and \$25 for technicians. Companies have five days to notify our office when a device is placed in service. Placed in Service notices can be sent by mail, fax or email. We require the annual calibration of standards.

Washington, DC: Only a Weights and Measures official can place a device into service. We do not require service technicians to be registered.

- 2. Handbook 44 uses the word “permanent” when mentioning some device marking requirements. Do you think there should be a definition or standardization of the word “permanent” when used to describe marking requirements?**

NORTHEAST WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

All of the directors present agreed that a definition of “permanent” as it applies to device marking should be adopted.

CENTRAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

No ID plate on the device is a problem

We have problems with distinguishing scales that are to be used either commercially or in non-trade applications. We depend on the service technician to properly label them for the application but that doesn’t always happen.

It is difficult to define permanence. A metal tag is not needed for some applications.

Permanence is difficult to define but, nevertheless, necessary.

Our NTEP lab does testing of the markings on a device to ensure that they are permanent.

Yes, definitely need a better definition

Should stand up to the environment

More difficult on an indicator since it can be used in various applications

WESTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

Yes. We would like to see a requirement in Handbook 44 addressing permanence of marking.

Unlike NIST Handbook 44, states do not adopt NCWM Publication 14 where test procedures for testing the permanence of markings currently reside. We need the requirement placed in H44.

SOUTHERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

It's an enforcement matter. Anything reasonable; should be common sense. Field inspector can define.

Marker is not permanent. Configurable parameters seem to be the biggest problem.