

Devices we inspect for accuracy and suitability

- Airport refuelers
- Cord wood measures*
- Gas station dispensers
- Industrial scales
- Marina Pumps
- Medical scales*
- Oil truck meters
- Retail store scales
- Store scanner systems
- Taxi cab meters
- Vehicle scales

*When requested.

Most devices are tested annually. A seal is usually put on to show that the equipment has been tested and found accurate. In Massachusetts the color of the seal is either green or red, changing from odd year to even year.

It's the law

Weights and Measures is a law enforcement issue. The Sealer and his or her Deputies and Inspectors shall enforce the law pertaining to weighing and measuring devices and to the giving of false or insufficient weight or measure and have the power to issue fines and warnings. Under Chapter 98: Section 29A of Mass General Laws.

What do I do if I want to file a complaint?

The first thing you want to do is collect as much information as available. For example, if you are in a supermarket and there is a problem with a scale, we need to know the register number or department location, or gas pump number and grade of gas; we also need to know the location of the establishment, and any information that you might think is pertinent. You can submit this complaint by mail, phone or email to the address and numbers listed below. We take all complaints very seriously, and we respond as quickly as we can.

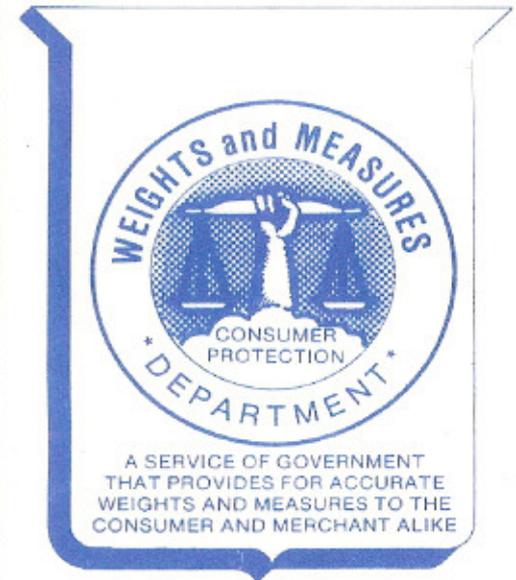
**City of Salem
Department of Weights and Measures**

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City of
Salem
Massachusetts



Serving Salem since 1637

"To protect the interests of buyers and sellers of commodities." - President John Adams, 1799

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Mayor Kimberley Driscoll

A brief history of weights and measures

Weights and Measures has roots going back to prehistoric times; the development of measurements probably took place between 10,000 and 8,000 BC. As different cultures began trading with one another, standard forms were needed. The Roman adage, "Caveat Emptor", has served through the ages as the warning "Let the Buyer Beware" on matters of quantity.

Salem town records show that in 1637 the Rev. Hugh Peter obtained weights and a beam and scales for the Town of Salem.

In 1640, William Lord, the constable, was ordered to keep the Weights and Measures in Salem. It was also provided that if anyone sold goods by unsealed weights or measures, he would be punished at the discretion of the court.

On March 2, 1799, President John Adams signed the first Weights and Measures law in the United States, "To protect the interest of buyers and sellers of commodities."

In 1821, President John Quincy Adams said, "That Weights and Measures may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society."

What does Weights & Measures do for you ?

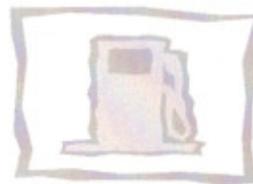
Local and State Weights and Measures officials act as a third party to help maintain fairness and keep the marketplace in balance. Their motto is: "That equality may prevail".



These men and women use highly accurate equipment to inspect large and small scales, meters, scanning equipment and gasoline stations, to name just a few.

All Weights and Measures inspectors who perform these various duties are certified by a written examination and field observation by the Massachusetts Division of Standards.

The Division of Standards is the State agency responsible for administering all laws regarding Weights and Measures in Massachusetts.



Safety

Safety is another important facet of inspections. When conducting annual inspections of fuel areas and fuel trucks, inspectors observe and see that any leaks are repaired before approval.

Getting what you pay for *Weights and Measures tips for consumers*



Almost everything that we buy is sold by weight, volume, count, or length of measure. Some examples: a pound of hamburger, a gallon of milk, gasoline for your car, oil for your home, a dozen eggs, a cord of firewood.

- **Check your receipts, before you leave the store, if possible.**
- **Check all represented prices- price on item, in flyer, on unit price tag, on signs-the lowest is correct.**
- **Watch deli items being weighed- be sure tare* is taken.**
- **Use unit price labels to value shop.**
- **Be sure scales and gas pumps start at zero.**
- **Be sure gasoline reading is not creeping along before you start nozzle.**

*Tare is weight of container or wrap-