

Department of Agriculture and Markets Fact Sheet

Bureau of Weights and Measures

Most people take it for granted that the commodities they purchase by weight or measure are accurate. Luckily for New Yorkers, there is a dedicated group of state and municipal weights and measures officials working to assure measurement accuracy and thus promote a fair and equitable marketplace.

New York's weights and measures program is a cooperative effort of state and local offices enforcing a single state law. In addition to the State Bureau of Weights and Measures, which has jurisdiction over the entire state, there are 64 county and city weights and measures departments or offices providing services to their communities.

The weights and measures programs are a critical part of New York State's infrastructure, protecting every consumer and every business.

Special State Inspection Programs: To assure accuracy in commercial transactions, state and local weights and measures officials annually inspect thousands of scales, gas pumps and other types of devices. They also inspect thousands of different packaged commodities, including those packed at the retail store and those packed at factories both nationally and internationally. The bureau operates several special programs for devices not tested by local officials.

Petroleum Quality Programs: To assure conformance with performance and labeling standards, weights and measures officials conduct random inspections of gasoline and diesel fuel at distribution terminals and at retail gas stations.

Fuel-NY Programs: As part of a joint effort between NYSERDA and Homeland Security, the Bureau is working to ensure that strategically located gas stations in Downstate are generator ready in the event of an emergency.

Metrology Laboratory Programs: The Bureau of Weights and Measures operates a Metrology Laboratory, which certifies the accuracy of weights and measures standards of mass/weight, volume, length and time. These calibration services are accredited to ISO 17025 standards. The laboratory also conducts evaluations of new commercial weighing and measuring devices as part of a national certification program. These services are available on a fee basis for both the public and private sectors.

For more information, call (518) 457-3146.

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