

REQUIREMENTS FOR WEIGHMASTERS AND DEPUTIES

The full text of weighmaster law is found in Division 5, Chapter 7 of the California Business and Professions Code (BPC), and the regulations are found in Title 4, Division 9, Chapter 9 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). While not complete, this list highlights common problems observed and what is required of weighmasters and their deputies. Most violations are misdemeanors, punishable by fines up to \$1000 and/or six months in jail.

- Ensure that all scales used are tested and sealed by the county and are maintained at zero balance. [BPC 12107, 12510(a)(1), 12717, and 12718(e); CCR 4000 G-UR.4.1 and 4402]
- Licenses must be current and list all active deputies. Full legal signatures are required on the weighmaster certificate for each determined weight, measure, or count. Initials are not acceptable. [BPC 12703 and 12715(c)]
- All required information must be recorded on the weighmaster certificate. All certificates and copies must be clear and legible. [BPC 12713, 12714, 12714.5, and 12715]
- Indicate “driver’s count” or “loader’s count,” or use the abbreviation “D.C.” or “L.C.,” next to the number of units of the commodity on a certificate if this information came from the driver or loader. [BPC 12715(e)]
- Correctly identify vehicles or combinations of vehicles. Equipment numbers may be used if they are traceable to the actual license plate number via weighmaster’s records. [BPC 12715(i)]
- Record the name and address of the grower and his/her agent, as provided by the vehicle driver, if a transaction involves hay or hay products. [BPC 12715(f)]
- Maintain all copies of voided certificates, true copies of all issued weighmaster certificates, and all other records and worksheets for four years. [BPC 12716]
- Do not alter the gross, tare, or net-only weights or measurements recorded on certificates. Incorrect certificates shall be voided and a correction certificate issued. [BPC 12718(h) and 12716.5]
- Record “Gross Only,” “Tare Only,” or “Net Only” in all unused weight spaces when recording only one weight. Certificates issued with blank weight spaces are incomplete. [BPC 12718(h) and CCR 4410]
- Ensure predetermined, seasonal, and common tare weights, if used, are maintained within the tolerances prescribed by law. [BPC 12722(a)(b) and CCR 4423, 4433, 4445, and 4450]
- When a load is weighed at a location other than the loading site, and an adjustment is made to the load, record the initial gross weight, corrected gross weight, name and address of both seller and buyer or broker as provided by the driver. [BPC 12732]

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEIGHMASTERS AND DEPUTIES OPERATING VEHICLE SCALES

- Weigh each vehicle, container, or commodity at the time of, and for each certification, unless regulation permits otherwise. Do not accept a driver’s word for any weight being recorded. [BPC 12721 and 12722(a)]
- Do not certify a weight in excess of 80,000 lb. when the vehicle is weighed at the loading site before entering a highway. [BPC 12725(a)(b)]
- Ensure the entire vehicle or combination of vehicles is resting on the scale before recording a certified weight. If a combination of vehicles is too long, or if weighing split loads, the units must be disconnected and weighed separately. [BPC 12728]