

November 8, 2001

TO: Livestock Scale Owners

FROM: Tom Schafer, Chief
ISDA Weights & Measures

SUBJECT: Access for testing

Idaho Weights & Measures is charged with testing all commercially used scales in the State of Idaho. Id W&M has been required by code to increase the capacity of our testing units to test scales to at least 12.5% of the scale capacity with known mass standards. Due to the long distances here and the variety of scales we find all over the state, Id W&M has opted for testing equipment that can be used for all types of scales, from 3,000 lb capacity Single Animal scales to 160,000lb capacity Vehicle scales. These test trucks are conventional cab trucks with 16 foot van bodies. The longer length will not allow maneuvering in narrow alleys even though the trucks are no wider than the older trucks they replaced.

NIST Handbook 44; Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices; is adopted by Administrative Rule as code in Idaho. G-UR.2.3. states:

Accessibility for Inspection, Testing, and Sealing Purposes- A device shall be located, or such facilities for normal access thereto shall be provided, to permit:

- (a) inspecting and testing the device;
- (b) inspecting and applying security seals to the device; and
- (c) readily bringing the testing equipment of the weights and measures official to the device by customary means and in the amount and size deemed necessary by such official for the proper conduct of the test.

Otherwise, it shall be the responsibility of the device owner or operator to supply such special facilities, including such labor as may be needed to inspect, test, and seal the device, and to transport the testing equipment to and from the device, as required by the weights and measures official.

Idaho W&M will no longer test Livestock scales where poor access could result in damaging trucks and equipment. Accessibility will be determined by the inspector at the scale. If in his judgement the access to the scale is not adequate, and attempting entry could result in damage to his equipment, he will not test. Unacceptable access would include, but is not limited to:

1. Alleys less than 11 feet wide.
2. Backing around corners in alleys.
3. Drop off at the edge of scales more than 1" high.

Idaho W&M encourages Livestock Owners to work with us to solve access problems. Solutions may include access panels in corral fences, gates, or alternate routes to scales. Idaho W&M will continue, with your cooperation, to provide this required and valuable service.