

To: Scale Service Companies
From: Glen H. Jex, Chief
Idaho Weights and Measures
Date: May 10, 1991
Subject: SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR UNATTENDED VEHICLE SCALES

The number of unattended, money or card-operated vehicle scales used for commercial transactions and to determine the axle loads of highway vehicles is increasing.

The following minimum guidelines are offered to assist those concerned with this type of equipment.

- 1) There must be a continuous indication of zero (S.1.1.). The concern with unattended, money-operated scales is to permit a scale to indicate zero, but not allow a vehicle to be weighed. A scale may indicate weight values to a low weight value, say to only 200 lb, to permit the balance condition of the scale to be determined, but not so far as to allow the scale to be used to weigh vehicles. Once payment has been made, the weight display is allowed the full range of indication to display the actual weight of the vehicle.
- 2) The range of the Automatic Zero-Setting Mechanism (AZSM) must be less than or equal to 3d (S.2.1.3.).
- 3) In a card-operated system, there must be a means for the card holder to set zero (S.2.1.1.) or the scale should be equipped with a mechanism that disables scale operation if the scale is not at zero at the start of the operation. For example, there may be a zero push button in front of the scale so the truck driver can set zero, or the scale may automatically set zero if a card reader is located ahead of the scale before the driver moves the truck onto the scale.
- 4) A printer is recommended, and may be required in the future. If a printer is provided, it should be located so the driver can take the ticket before leaving the scale. The ticket should be available to the truck driver, but the driver may have to push a button to obtain the ticket, i.e., the printed ticket is not automatically generated. If the ticket printer is not at the scale, then instructions at the scale must inform the driver where the ticket can be obtained. Instructions must also be on the printer as to how to obtain the ticket. The weight ticket must state:

"WEIGHT DETERMINED ON AN UNATTENDED SCALE"

It is recommended that the tickets be numbered consecutively.

Please contact this office if we may be of any further assistance.

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