



Consumer Protection Section
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Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets

May 27, 2016

To: Vermont Farmers' Markets & Farm Stand vendors,

This past spring, The Agency Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) held 16 scale testing workshops located around the state. These opportunities were set up to ensure that the scales used at farmers' markets and farm stands were legal for trade and accurate and received the proper testing and license requirements. Only a small number of vendors attended these scale testing workshops, resulting in many direct sale scales remaining untested. As of 2016, all small capacity scales used in direct sales to consumers require annual testing and are subject to a license.

In order to help with the transition in scale requirements, this letter will describe various certification options for your direct sale scales. Scales used for direct sales must be legal for trade, with either a Class 3 designation or a legal for trade statement. These scales are usually under 100-pound capacity, and are easily mobile. Portable platform scales used for weighing large amounts of produce can be tested onsite at the farm stand. Scales used to prepack packages for sale do not require testing or licensing. If you've have your scale tested but not yet licensed, please contact our Licensing Section at: 828-2436.

VAAFAM Consumer Protection staff are not able to attend all farmers' markets and farm stands located across the state during the marketing season to test scales. Instead, if you have not had your scale tested, you can call me at 828-3458 to request testing. You will be able to bring your scale, by appointment, to our weights and measures laboratory located at 322 Industrial Park Drive in Berlin, or in unique circumstances, a field specialist will try to set up a time to test your scale onsite.

Beginning in 2017, the only opportunity to get your small capacity scales tested and certified will be at the scale workshops. If scales are found without approval seals at farmers' markets or farm stands after that date, a penalty may be issued.

Our goal is to work with you to make sure your scales are legal for trade and accurate, protecting both you and your customers. If you have questions, please contact me at 828-3458 or henry.marckres@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry J. Marckres".

Henry J. Marckres

Chief

Consumer Protection

henry.marckres@vermont.gov

Telephone -- 802-828-3458

