2025 Lake County Weights & Measures Report



Providing Consumer Protection and Equity in the Marketplace

FY 2023/2024 Weights and Measur es Statistics

Weights and Measure Expenditures Weights and Measures Revenue	\$156,932.56 \$83,719.33
Total Employees * <i>Employees also work in agricultural programs*</i>	. 6
Total Weights and Measures Program Hour	2,093
Businesses Inspected (unique locations)	213
Total Inspections Performed (devices) Consumer Concerns Investigated	
Devices Registered in Lake County Gas Pumps Counter and Computing Scales Large Capacity Scales Propane Meters Electric Meters Vapor Meters Cannabis Scales	809 145 64 58 1229 2142 66
Notices of Violation Issued Common Violations: • Weighing/Measuring equipment not maintained accurately by • Required signage or labeling missing or illegible	25 / a business

- \cdot Sub-metered bills inaccurate or missing information
- \cdot Customer not able to see price or weight of item displayed at time of purchase

<u>Scales</u>

There are many types of commercial scales in Lake County and every commercial scale must be tested once a year. Different certified weights are used to test different capacity scales. For testing large capacity scales such as vehicle scales at rock quarries, wineries, packing sheds and waste management facilities, we use our brand new crane truck designed to carry large cast iron weights. Small capacity scales, such as those at farmers markets and grocery stores, are tested using a weight kit consisting of smaller weights. When a scale passes inspection we place an official Lake County seal on it proclaiming its accuracy. If a scale fails, we attach a red tag taking it out of service until it is repaired.

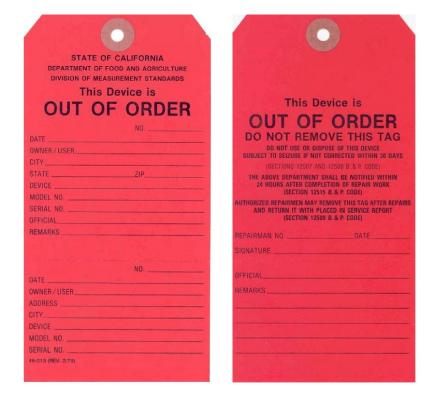






Gas Pumps

Lake County has 33 gas stations and approximately 809 retail fuel meters (gas pumps). These meters are required to be tested and sealed on a yearly basis. In order to complete our inspection, ten gallons is delivered into certified provers (test measures) to determine if the gas pump has delivered an accurate amount of fuel. Fuel meters that pass inspection are sealed with an official Lake County seal. Meters that do not pass inspection are red tagged and taken out of service until they are repaired.





California law requires that:

Free air and water must be available to customers who purchase gasoline or diesel fuel.

Gas stations must provide **refueling service to disabled persons** except during hours when they are understaffed.



If required services are not advertised or offered, or you suspect a pump is not operating correctly, please call us at (707)263-0217.

Type Evaluation and Cannabis Scales

Commercial cannabis farms are required to enter the weight of harvested cannabis into California's "Track and Trace" program. This program works to ensure that legally sold cannabis is the same cannabis that was legally grown. Because the weights entered into this program have legal importance they are required to be taken using a scale that is legal for trade. As with all commercial weighing and measuring devices, our job is to not only inspect these scales but

we also need to ensure that they have been approved for legal use. Legal for trade scales are both certified by the National Type Approval Program (NTEP) and or the California Type Evaluation Program (CTEP). Either of these types of approved scales are acceptable.



Scales in the Cannabis Industry

The legal cannabis industry is rapidly growing and new businesses emerge on a yearly basis. Keeping these businesses in compliance by testing and sealing their scales can be challenging. Unlike many traditional businesses that have commercial scales, cannabis farms are often in remote areas, behind locked gates, and managed by people unfamiliar with weights and measures regulations. Not only can it be difficult to gain access to test these scales but often these scales are not legal for commercial use or do not pass inspection due to their sensitive operating parameters.





Price Accuracy

It is against California law for a business to charge more than the store's posted or advertised price. Customers are entitled to the lowest advertised or posted price for any item offered for sale by a store. When prices change it is the stores responsibility to make sure the price advertising changes too.



Lake County Weights and Measures conducts spot inspections on businesses to ensure that barcode scanners are charging customers the posted price. Consumers are encouraged to report, to our office, overcharges or instances where a store refused to honor the lowest advertised or posted price of a product.



By law there is no such thing as an expired sale sign. If a sale sign is still up, that is the price that the consumer is entitled to pay by law.

Sub-Meter Testing

There are many mobile home parks, apartment buildings, and other residences in Lake County where utilities are sub-metered. These devices must be tested for accuracy and sealed by Lake County Weights and Measures inspectors every ten years. Our office has a specialized lab and equipment to conduct this testing.





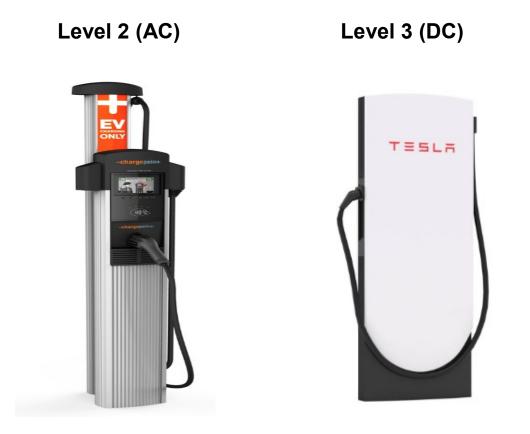
Sub-Meter Billing

Lake County Weights and Measures inspectors respond to billing complaints related to misread meters, miscalculations, discounts not being applied, and incorrect rates. Tenants of sub-metered properties are encouraged to reach out to our office if their bills are not providing enough information to calculate the utility bill or if the amount appears noticeably different from their normal usage.



Electric Charging Stations

Electric vehicle charging stations also known as Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment/System (EVSE) are being installed across California. The types of commercial chargers available are either level 2 (240 volt AC slow chargers) or level 3 (DC fast chargers).



Currently Lake County has approximately 12 AC charging station locations and 2 DC charging station locations.

The Testing Process for Electric Charging Stations

The testing of these devices require special standards for both AC and DC chargers and present challenges to weights and measures inspectors. The testing standards are expensive and, until recently, a DC standard was not yet approved for use. The testing standard technology is rapidly changing and standards purchased a few years ago are already inferior to what is available today.



The California Department of Measurement Standards (DMS) has purchased five AC standards that counties can borrow, but currently do not have a DC standard available. Special training is required of county inspectors before they can borrow and use these standards. Another challenge we face is that charging stations installed in the past are allowed to remain in service, by law, despite not meeting code requirements of other devices such as scales. Requirements such as a screen that indicates kWh delivered and cost per kWh along with other manufacturing information used to determine its' commercial legality are missing on many of these older devices.



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