

April 2009

Clients of Weights and Measures:

This notification is to inform you that the Sonoma County Sealer of Weights and Measures is asking the Board of Supervisors for an increase to our Device Registration and Scanner Registration Fees.

The text of the proposed amendment to the Fee Ordinance is below.

The Device Fee increase will move our schedule to 100% of the maximum fees allowed by the Business and Professions Code, Division 5, Chapter 2, Article 2.1. The Scanner registration Fee is based on our hourly cost recovery schedule as determined by the Auditor's Office.

The fees would be effective July 1, 2009, (fiscal year 09-10) but not invoiced until December, with a January 1, 2010 due date, and 30-day grace period.

We are mindful of the impact of fee increases to businesses and the public, and have increased fees only moderately over time. The Code allowed the maximum fee to become effective January 1, 2008, but we were able to adjust expenses and hold fees down.

The device fee increases represent \$4 on most device types, and \$20 in the business location fee. The greatest increases, \$35 to \$50 are for liquefied petroleum gas meters, and vehicle, hopper, and tank scales.

Point of Sale System (scanner) registrations are proposed to increase by \$21 for 1-3 stations, \$31 for 4-9 stations, and \$51 for 10 or more stations.

This notice is to alert you to the proposal, invite you to comment, and, if necessary, reduce your device or scanner population if that reflects your current business activity, which would lower your overall fee.

The Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public hearing for 8:30 AM, **April 21, 2009**, to review and possibly adopt, the proposed fees. The public is invited to comment, in person, at that time, or before then in writing.

Questions or comments may also be sent to the Division using the addresses or phone numbers listed on this website.

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A. Section 30-16.1 of the Sonoma County Ordinance Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Effective July 1, 2009, the annual fee for registering weighing and measuring devices to be used at a fixed location throughout the term of the registration shall be as set forth below, provided, however, that in no event shall the annual registration fee exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each business location:

DEVICE REGISTRATION FEES:

Business Location Fee \$100.00

Device Fee:

METERS:

Electric Sub-meter \$2.00

Vapor Sub-meter \$2.00

Water Sub-meter \$2.00

Fabric/Cord/Wire Meter \$20.00

Miscellaneous Meters \$20.00

Retail Motor Fuel Meter \$20.00

Retail Water Meter \$20.00

Taxi Meter \$20.00

Vehicle Meter \$25.00

Wholesale Meter \$25.00

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Meter \$175.00

SCALES:

Computing Scale \$20.00

Counter Scale \$20.00

Hanging Scale \$20.00

Platform Scale \$20.00

Prescription/Jewelers Scale \$20.00

Animal Scale \$100.00

Livestock Scale (<10,000 lbs.) \$100.00

Crane Scale \$150.00

Dormant Scale \$150.00

Hopper Scale (<10,000 lbs.) \$150.00

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| Livestock Scale (>10,000 lbs.) | \$150.00 |
| Monorail Scale | \$150.00 |
| Hopper Scale (>10,000 lbs.) | \$250.00 |
| Vehicle Scale | \$250.00 |

For a Sonoma County certified agricultural producer who uses a weighing or measuring device solely to sell at a Sonoma County Farmer's Market, the annual device and registration fee for such weighing or measuring device shall be fifty percent (50%) of the amount shown above.

These fees shall remain in effect until changed by an ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 30-6 of the Sonoma County Code, as set forth in this article.

B. Section 30-14 of the Sonoma County Ordinance Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

An annual registration fee is required of each business location in the county that operates a point of sale system for commercial purposes. The annual registration fees are as follows:

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| 1 to 3 Point of Sale Stations | \$189.00 per business location |
| 4 to 9 Point of Sale Stations | \$277.00 per business location |
| 10 or more Point of Sale Stations | \$297.00 per business location |

Link to the Sonoma County Code, Chapter 30:

<http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/sonomaco/>

Link to the Business and Professions Code, see page 37:

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/general/2009_BPCode.pdf

Link to the Division's website:

http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/weights_measures/index.htm

Link to the Board of Supervisors website:

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/board/index.htm>