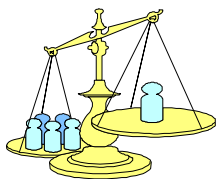


SPOTLIGHT ON WEIGHTS & MEASURES

SONOMA COUNTY SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



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WELCOME JEFF!!

Welcome to our newest Standards Specialist, Jeff Yparraguirre (pronounced: Parra-garry). Jeff comes to us from the City of Fairfield where he was a Drinking Water Operator. Jeff expressed interest in the field of Weights and Measures about six months ago. He volunteered to spend time with an experienced Senior Standards Specialist Inspector. Through this experience, he learned the profession fit his interests.

Combining his volunteer experience with his background running his own business, and former career as a science teacher he was selected from 12 other candidates.

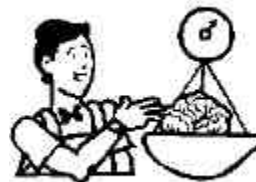
Jeff has gone through basic orientation and is now focusing on the device program. He's applied to take the license exams and attended the CASAP Weights and Measures workshop in Kern County last weekend. Jeff shows keen interest in the program and has demonstrated his ability to perform the job duties. Welcome, Jeff.

QUANTITY CONTROL

Bags of fertilizer were inspected in March based on a complaint from the District Attorney's Office.

Six lots were placed off sale at three different locations for short measure. A total of 927 packages were placed off sale. One lot of 1,520 packages passed the inspection. Multiple counties are involved with this investigation and the outcome is still pending.

State Quantity Control Investigator, Karen Langford, was in Sonoma County in March. Karen and Sonoma County Standard Specialist, Diane Keller, audited several goat farms and checked their prepackaged goat cheese for accurate net weight. The lots inspected were found in compliance.



DEVICES

Personnel of the State Division of Measurement Standards Metrology lab came to Sonoma County in March to certify the standards used in testing commercial devices in Sonoma County. They certify the standards of the county sealers, as often as may be deemed necessary based upon a review of statistical data resulting from previous certifications, but in no event shall

the period of time between certifications exceed 10 years. The National Bureau of Standards certifies the state standards.

All the basic units of weights and measures and weights and measures equivalents are published by the National Bureau of Standards. These units are recognized by the state of California and they govern all weighing and measuring equipment and transactions in the state.

The standards of the State are kept in a suitable laboratory location and if transported are maintained under environmental conditions appropriate for maintaining the integrity of the unity of measure represented by the standards.

All of Sonoma County standards, from small gram weights, 25-pound weights to 1,000-pound weights are certified for accuracy. The petroleum prover, milk tank prover, LPG prover and gasoline standards were certified. Stopwatches and tape measures are also certified.



CONSUMER TIPS

Prepackaged cheese is generally packaged with a vacuum seal or wrapped in plastic. Always check for a tight seal. A loose seal can mean moisture loss in the package and result in a short weight product. Some cheese can be priced over \$15.00 per pound. A .001-pound short weight package at \$15.00 per pound means you are paying 15 cents for that .001 lb. shortage.

CONSUMERS CORNER

U.S. liquid measure is used for liquid packed products. For example, soup cans are labeled in fluid ounces. Eight fluid ounces equals 1 cup. Many times people confuse liquid ounces or fluid ounces with ounces of weight. The ounces used in weight are called Avoirdupois ounces or pounds. One pound is 16 ounces of weight. When looking at a product look at the label, fluid products will specify fluid ounces on the label. Products that are avoirdupois weight will state net weight ounces.