

SCALES USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

All scales used for commercial purposes must meet strict standards for accuracy and customer visibility in the California Code of Regulations. Appropriate and suitable scales must be of a type approved by the Division of Measurement Standards and issued either a California Type Evaluation Program (CTEP) Certificate of Approval or a National Type Evaluation Program Certificate of Conformance before commercial use. This process is known as "Type Evaluation." See the CTEP Information Guide at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/ctep/CTEPInfoGuide.pdf>

- Step 1: Selecting a suitable scale.
- Step 2: Setting up your scale.
- Step 3: Using and maintaining your scale.
- Step 4: Notifying your County Weights and Measures Office.

Step 1: Selecting a suitable scale

Consider:

- Range of weighing (min & max)
 - Division (increment) size
 - Precision (Accuracy Class)
- } To meet your business needs

Legal-for-trade scales purchased from a scale dealer or purchased online will require calibration before use. A Registered Service Agency (RSA) can assist you in the selection of a type approved and suitable scale. They will ensure the scale is accurate and correct, install and place the scale into commercial use pending inspection by weights and measures, and can assist in the scale registration process. [RSAs listings](#) can be found at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/rsa/rsa.html> or via online searches.

Step 2: Setting up your scale

- Scales must be installed and operated per the manufacturer's instructions and California laws and regulations.
- Scales must be placed on a level solid surface and properly used and maintained (refer to owner's manual).
- Legal-for-trade scales must be "sealed" by a County Weights and Measures Office.
- Precision scales may need to be verified and recalibrated when moved to another location within a production facility or retail establishment.

Step 3: Using and maintaining your scale

- Use the scale according to the owner's reference manual.
- Deduct "TARE" (packaging, wrappings, containers, etc.) to determine "NET" weight (NET = GROSS – TARE).
- The owner or user is responsible for ensuring the accuracy and proper maintenance of a commercial scale.
- EVERYBODY benefits from an accurate scale. The customer is not cheated and the seller is protected by weights and measures officials who ensure a level playing field for all competing businesses.

Step 4: Register a scale with your county

- Most California counties have local ordinances requiring annual registration of commercial scales.
- Find your County Weights and Measures Office at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>

SELECTING THE BEST SCALE(S) FOR CANNABIS

For Harvest Weights, Bulk Packaging, Net Weight Verification and Weight Verification for Track and Trace Reporting.

Typical Scale Capacities		Maximum Scale Division Size (Increments)	
<i>Metric Units</i> kilogram (kg)	<i>US Standard Units</i> pound (lb)	<i>Metric Units</i> gram (g)	<i>US Standard Units</i> pound (lb)
0.5 kg (500 g)	1 lb	0.1 g	0.001
5 kg	10 lb	1 g	0.01 lb
50 kg	100 lb	10 g	0.1 lb
50 kg +	100 lb +	100 g +	1.0 lb +

For Retail Packaging, Net Weight Verification, and Retail Sales from Bulk.

Typical Weighing Range	Maximum Scale Division Size (Increments)
0-1 gram (g)	0.01 g
Between 1-10 g	0.01 g
Between 10-100 g	0.1 g
Between 100-1,000 g	1 g
Between 1/8 ounce (oz) to 1/2 oz	0.0005 oz (0.00002 lb) (0.01 g)*
Between 1/2+ oz to 1 oz	0.005 oz (0.0002 lb) (0.1 g)*
Between 1+ oz	0.05 oz (0.002 lb) (1 g)*

*Conversions rounded to nearest legal division size.

Additional Resources

California Weights and Measures Laws and Regulations	www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/publications.html
Buying Legal-for-Trade Scales Online	ncwm.net/resource/consumer-information
National and California Type Evaluation Program - Certificate Search Database	ncwm.net/ntep/cert_search and cdfa.ca.gov/dms/ctep.html
California Weighmaster Requirements	https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/programs/wm/wm.html

SALES BY WEIGHT:

A business needs to determine weight of:

- containers/packages of trimmings,
- containers/packages of product, and
- packages of dried flower.

These different types of containers and packages will likely require scales of different capacities and division sizes due to basic suitability requirements.

- Scale 1: For weighing 1 lb net-weight packages the grower could use a 1 kg x 0.001 kg scale (1000 g x 1 g).
- Scale 2: For weighing 1 gram net-weight packages the grower could use a
- 500 g x 0.01 g scale.

This may include, but is not limited to packages of:

- Usable cannabis (buds, flowers)
- Edibles
- Topicals (ointments, creams, balms, emollients)
- Shatter (cannabis concentrate)

SALES BY VOLUME:

Cannabis products in liquid form are sold by volume, e.g., milliliters (ml) and fluid ounces (fl oz).

This may include, but is not limited to packages of:

- Oils
- Tinctures
- Extracts



Go online at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/> or send an email to DMS@cdfa.ca.gov for additional information.