

The National Conference of Weights and Measures estimates that an error of slightly more than 1 tablespoon per 5 gallons at the gas pump can equal a charge of \$125 million annually. Depending on the direction of the mistake, this cost is borne by the consumer or the retailer.

When scales, pumps and meters are not in compliance with standards, appropriate action is taken to rectify the problem. Actions include fines, penalties, confiscation of packages and the stoppage of sales. A team of 6 individuals from the Weights and Measurements program inspect everything from scales, to gas pumps, parking meters and much more.

Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture said, “DDA’s Weights & Measures inspectors are an excellent example of skilled, committed, hard working state employees. I am very proud of the work that they do. Since July 1, 2008, these 6 hardworking Weights & Measures Inspectors:

- Inspected 3329 small scales
- Inspected 276 large scales
- Inspected 267 livestock/vehicle scales
- Inspected 8195 gas pumps
- Inspected 220 fuel oil meters
- Inspected 142 Liquid Propane Gas meters
- Inspected 68 grain moisture meters
- Inspected 3914 lots of packed goods
- Performed 144 price verification inspections (scanners)

Steve Connors, DDA Weights and Measures Administrator and his inspectors demonstrated how to determine if gas pumps are in compliance, scales meet national standards, and how price verification inspections are performed. Connors shared, “If you think you are a victim of fraud involving weight, volume, quantity or pricing in the marketplace, the Weights & Measures staff would like to know.”

Electronic copies of the pictures are available: anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us.

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