

TRADE MEASUREMENT

Instrument Testing

Instruments tested by trade measurement staff include retail shop scales, platform scales in warehouses and processing plants, petrol and LPG pumps used to dispense fuels, weighbridges and the humble liquor measures used in hotels and clubs.

There are even requirements for beer glasses and other simple volume measures.

REQUIREMENTS BEFORE INSTALLATION

Before any measuring instrument can be installed for use for trade it is required, under the Trade Measurement Act to be tested for compliance and accuracy by an inspector or by a licensed certifier.

It is an offence to use an instrument that has not been tested and sealed. Licensed certifiers are private operators who work in the industry and are licensed under the Act to perform self-certification of instruments they supply and install.

TRADE MEASUREMENT INSPECTORATE ROLE

Part of the Trade Measurement Inspectorate role is to audit the work of licensed certifiers.

There are several anomalies in the trade measurement arena that the everyday person may not take into account. For instance, electronic scales will not weigh correctly if they are calibrated in a different geographic location to where they are to be used.

If you were to calibrate such scales at the equator, they would not be correct at the North Pole -due to the earth's gravitational pull. For example there is a 10 gram difference between electronic scales calibrated in Adelaide and used in Darwin.

The standards used by the Trade Measurement Inspectors to test instruments used by shopkeepers and other traders are also required to be verified. This is done at the Trade Measurement laboratory in Winnellie.

The laboratory also offers a calibration service for NT industry in other measuring instrument requirements such as micrometers, vernier callipers, flexible tapes and rigid line measures.

If an Inspector tests an instrument and establishes that it is not within required tolerance, the instrument is rejected and the owner is required to have it repaired within a reasonable time. This is usually 28 days, but can be sooner depending on the size of the error detected or if an Inspector deems a measuring instrument is unsafe to use.

For further information contact Trade Measurement

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