

Fresh Products Branch Bulletin

FPB 95-6
6/21/95

SCALE TOLERANCES FOR DETERMINING NET WEIGHT

PURPOSE:

This bulletin provides tolerances to be used when determining whether an applicant or USDA scale is acceptable for certifying net weight.

CHECK WEIGHTS:

Check weights used should be approximately the same weight as the net weight that is being certified. For example, if a container is marked "25 lbs Net Wt," a 25 lb. check weight or a combination of check weights weighing a total of 25 lbs. should be used. If an exact weight combination is not available, a check weight or combination of check weights within 5 lbs. above or below the certifying container weight may be used. Exceptions to this rule must be cleared through the Field Operations Section in Headquarters.

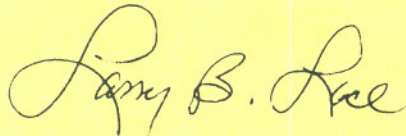
TOLERANCES:

The following tolerances shall be used for all digital scales showing 1/100th lb. graduations.

<u>Check Weight/Container Weight</u>	<u>Tolerance</u>
0 to 5 lbs.	+ or - .01 lb.
+5 to 20 lbs.	+ or - .02 lb.
+20 to 40 lbs.	+ or - .03 lb.
over 40 lbs.	+ or - .05 lb.

For all non-digital type scales graduated in 1/10 lb. or 1/4 lb. increments, allow one half graduation tolerance. For example, the acceptable range for a non-digital type scale graduated in 1/4 lb. increments when using a 10 lb. checkweight would be from one half of the distance from the 9 3/4 lb. to the 10 lb. graduation to one half of the distance from the 10 lb. to the 10 1/4 lb. graduation.

All scales that do meet the above tolerances will not be acceptable for use in certifying net weight.



Branch Chief

Distribution: EM, HQ, FS, TM, and CM

Originating Office: Field Operations

File Maintenance Instructions: File in Bulletin Binder