What is Weights & Measures?

- ✓ Weights and Measures is a division of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office of the County of Ventura and is mandated by state law to protect the interests of the buyer and seller to ensure equity in everyday business transactions.
- ✓ Our Device Program inspects and tests all commercial weighing and measuring devices within Ventura County on an annual basis. When a device is found to be correct, a paper 'seal' is placed on the device.
- ✓ Our Quantity Control Program routinely checks packaged products for correct quantity & labeling and performs price accuracy inspections to verify if customers are paying for the lowest posted, advertised, or quoted price.
- ✓ We investigate all complaints received from consumers for possible unlawful practices.
- ✓ We coordinate with the District Attorney in the prosecution of violators.
- ✓ 5 Main Inspection Activities which have an Impact On Your Wallet Every Day:

Measurement Verification

Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers

Weighing Verification

Prepackaged Products

Price Accuracy Verification

Who Do You Call?

County of Ventura Agriculture/Weights & Measures

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Who Do You Call?

County of Ventura Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Measurement Verification

- Each year, commercial measuring devices are inspected for accuracy, performance, and suitability.
- The most common type of measuring device is found on a gas pump, which measures various types of retail motor fuels.
- There are several other types of measuring devices that we inspect:
 - Compressed gas, such as propane gas (LPG) and natural gas (CNG)
 - Fabric, wire, and cordage meters
 - Odometers, located in ambulances and rental vehicles
 - Vehicle-Mounted Meters, which sell various products in high volume, such as: motor fuel, oil, propane, fertilizer
 - Taximeters, which measure time and distance
 - Utility submeters, which measure natural gas, water, and electricity.
 - Water vending machines
- All consumer complaints alleging short measure are investigated.

Who Do You Call?

County of Ventura Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Quantity Control

Prepackaged Products

- Our Quantity Control program assures consumer confidence in the marketplace by inspecting prepackaged commodities.
- Prepackaged products are tested to ensure they contain the proper amount based on the package's net content statement.
- Prepackaged products are also checked for compliance with the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, which requires: declarations of **Identity** (What it is?), **Responsibility** (Who packed it?), and **Quantity** (How much is in it?).
- This program also investigates deceptive, excessive, or "slack fill" packaging that may mislead consumers into purchasing less quantity than expected.
- Packages that fail our testing process are ordered off sale until repackaged or relabeled.
- Packaged products are available at both a retail and a wholesale level. We test packages at retail stores, distributors, and at the location the product was packaged.

Who Do You Call?

County of Ventura Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Quantity Control

Price Accuracy Verification

- What is a Price Accuracy Inspection?
 - A Price Accuracy Inspection is performed at retail locations with automated point-of-sale systems to verify that prices charged to consumers are the same as those posted, advertised, or quoted price.
 - Automated point-of-sale (POS) systems include scanners or any electronic or computer systems that use price look-up codes or descriptions to retrieve the prices for items.
- Ventura County has 1125 stores registered in the price verification program.
- Are you being charged the correct price?
 - As a customer, you are entitled to the lowest price posted!
- Advertisements should be clear, simple, and easy to read, but often they are not! The best advice is to pay attention, and if you find a mistake, make the store aware of it.
- Do you have a complaint? Call us and we can try to replicate the situation you encountered. If the conditions still exists, we will take enforcement action.

Who Do You Call?

County of Ventura Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers (Gas Pumps)

- Every year, we inspect all pumps at every fueling station in the County of Ventura.
- Ventura County has 186 fueling locations totaling 5,346 retail motor fuel meters that measure: gasoline, diesel, hydrogen, compressed natural gas, and electricity.
- Have you ever wondered whether you were really getting what you pay for at the pump? Or if the fuel meets the qualities that are displayed?
 - During our inspections, we check that all grades on each dispenser are accurate, have the proper labeling, and that their price agrees with all posted advertisements.
- You are probably familiar with pulling up to a gas station and seeing the dispenser and product (octane) selection buttons.
 - We utilize State of California labs to verify if the fuel meets the advertised octane and quality specifications. Fuel quality is enforced by random sampling and investigating customer complaints.
- Other petroleum products, such as: antifreeze, motor oils, brake fluid, etc. are also tested for quality standards.

Who Do You Call?
County of Ventura Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Weight Verification

- Each year, all commercial weighing devices (scales) are inspected for accuracy, performance, and suitability.
- Ventura County has over 700 business locations with more than 2,900 scales.
- The most common scales are found at grocery store checkout stands or meat counters.
- Other examples of weighing devices that we inspect:
 - Vehicle scales used for transporting goods
 - Platform scales found at warehouses & recyclers
 - Livestock scales, like the one found at the County Fair.
 - Jewelry scales used to purchase precious metals
- Our weight verification program also inspects of business locations for certificate accuracy and compliance with weighmaster laws when the buyer or seller are not present.
- All consumer complaints alleging short weight are investigated.

Who Do You Call?

County of Ventura Agriculture/Weights & Measures