

**For questions about legal scales,  
contact companies listed in your  
local phone directories under  
SCALES.**

Washington State Weights and Measures:  
(360) 902-1857  
Email: [wtsmeasures@agr.wa.gov](mailto:wtsmeasures@agr.wa.gov)  
[http://www.agr.wa.gov/Inspection/Weights  
Measures/default.asp](http://www.agr.wa.gov/Inspection/WeightsMeasures/default.asp)

City of Seattle - Weights and Measures:  
(206)386-1298  
Email: [seattle.consumer-affairs@seattle.gov](mailto:seattle.consumer-affairs@seattle.gov)

City of Spokane - Weights and Measures:  
(509) 625-6611  
Email: [sparker@spokanecity.org](mailto:sparker@spokanecity.org)

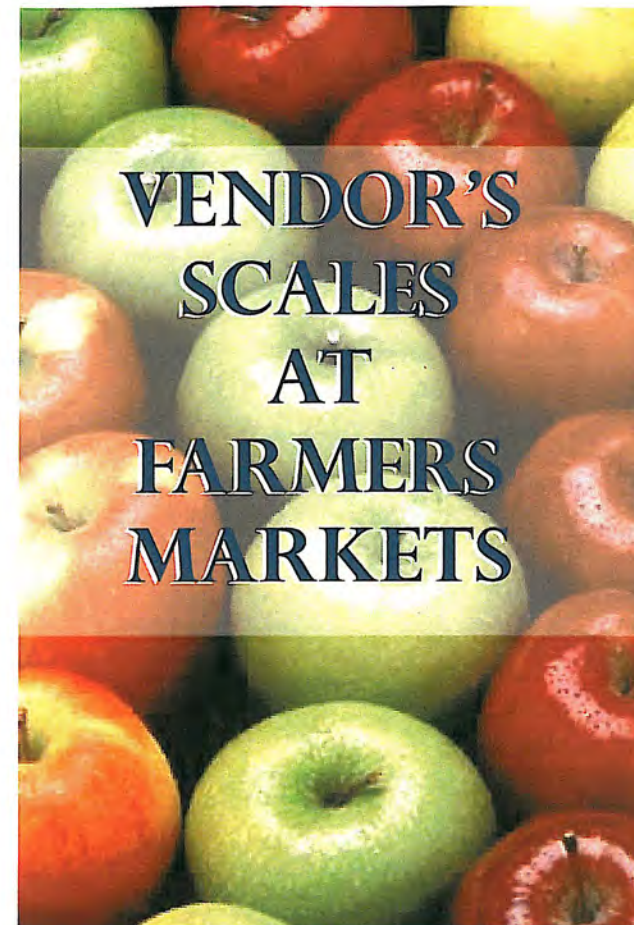
Washington State Department of Licensing:  
(360) 664-1400  
Email: [MLS@dol.wa.gov](mailto:MLS@dol.wa.gov)  
[http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/weightsand  
measures.html](http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/weightsandmeasures.html)



**Contact:**

Washington State Department of Agriculture  
PO Box 42560  
Olympia WA 98504-2560  
360.902.1857  
<http://agr.wa.gov/wm>

1/2009



# VENDOR'S SCALES AT FARMERS MARKETS

## That Equity May Prevail

This pamphlet will help farmer's market managers and vendors register their scales with the Washington State Department of Licensing. It will also give some clarity of the responsibilities of market managers, vendors, and weights and measures inspectors.



Washington State  
Department of Agriculture

## Weighing and Measuring Devices Laws

In Washington State, no weighing or measuring instrument or device may be used for commercial purposes unless its commercial use is registered annually.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW)  
[\[RCW 19.94.015\]](#)

All weighing or measuring instruments or devices used for commercial purposes within this state shall be correct.

[\[RCW 19.94.165\]](#)



## Market Manager's Responsibilities

- Ensure that vendors have a master business license issued by the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL).
- Verify the registration of a scale on the vendor's master business license.
- If the scale is not registered, ask them to do so by contacting DOL using the contact information at the end of this brochure.



## Vendor's Responsibilities

- All scales that are being used must be registered with DOL.
- Vendors are required to use scales that weigh accurately and use the correct type of scale. It is illegal to use portion scales and scales displaying "not legal for trade".
- Scales must be placed in a reasonable position for the customer to observe the weighing and the weight display.
- All sales must be conducted using net weight. Net weight means the weight of the product only, excluding the wrappers, labeling, and containers "tare".
- All prepackaged products require a label stating the product identity and the net weight.

## Weights and Measures Inspector's Responsibilities

- Check for the registration of a scale on the vendor's Master Business License.
- Inspect a scale for accuracy.
- Inspect a scale for correct use.
- Inspect scale placement.
- Inspector's approval of a scale will be completed with the application of a state seal to the scale.
- Inspector's rejection of a scale will require that it must either be repaired by a service agent or replaced as the situation requires.

