Memo

TO: Businesses with Commercial Scales
FROM: New Hampshire Division of Weights and Measures
DATE: February 5, 2014
RE: **Scale Maintenance Requirements**

_____

SCALE MAINTENANCE:
ZERO BALANCE & LEVELING OF THE DEVICE

The following information is from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44, 2014 edition, which is adopted by reference into the Division of Weights and Measures' statute. See RSA Ch. 438. The following scale maintenance requirements can be found under the scale code in NIST Handbook 44, pg. 2-55:

UR.4. Maintenance Requirements.   **2.20. Scales**

UR.4.1.   Balance Condition. – The zero-load adjustment of a scale shall be maintained so that, with no load on the load-receiving element and with all load-counterbalancing elements of the scale (such as poises, drop weights, or counterbalance weights) set to zero, the scale shall indicate or record a zero balance condition. A scale not equipped to indicate or record a zero-load balance shall be maintained in balance under any no-load condition.

UR.4.2.   Level Condition. – If a scale is equipped with a level-condition indicator, the scale shall be maintained in level.

In other words, the scale must indicate zero when nothing is on the platter or in the pan. For digital indicating scales, the digital display would show zero(s) and for analog devices such as hanging scales, the indicator would point to zero. It is also necessary to regularly check the level of the scale, especially if the scale is being moved from one location to another (e.g., to and from a farmers' market) or simply being moved to clean under or around the scale.

You may find these and other scales code requirements from Handbook 44 at the following link: **http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/pubs/hb44-14.cfm,** or go to our website and click on Division of Weights and Measures links page.

For questions or more information, please contact: The NH Division of Weights & Measures at **(603) 271-3700** or visit our website at **www.agriculture.nh.gov** and click on Division of Weights & Measures.