

New Hampshire Division of Weights and Measures

TRUCK SCALE MAINTENANCE: Preparing for & Dealing with Winter & Freezing Temperatures

The Division of Weights and Measures would like to remind vehicle scale owners and operators of some important information pertaining to vehicle scale maintenance in the winter months. By following these maintenance guidelines, scales will perform better and binding issues may be reduced during the winter and freezing temperatures.

The following information was provided by a licensed NH service technician.

As part of ongoing truck scale maintenance, it is important to clean out any debris under the truck scale. This debris may include a buildup of silt, mud, and dirt that accumulates between the concrete piers/slab and the bottom of the scale and between the scale and the end walls.

The scale deck is designed to move freely without any obstruction. Although it is not visible with the naked eye, when weight is applied to a scale, the scale deck moves in a downward direction because of the force applied to the load cells or lever system. If there is any buildup of debris under the truck scale, which is up against the scale deck, the weights will be incorrect and will result in a light reading.

It is especially important to clean out under the scale before winter and freezing temperatures arrive. The silt/dirt buildup almost always retains moisture. If the buildup is not removed, it will freeze and the “clean out” and “down time” will be at least twice as long and twice as expensive. Calcium chloride should not be used to melt the ice because it may cause damage to concrete foundation/piers.

When removing snow from the top of the scale, shovels and snow blowers are the best option. If a plow is used to remove snow from the vehicle scale, the plow should be used from end to end, not side to side. Scales are designed to move end to end and the bumper bolts will help restrict the end to end movement. Also, leave the plow blade up a bit so the plow will not damage any plates/covers over the load cell cavities or the gap between the scale and the end wall.

Should you have any other questions, please contact the Division of Weights and Measures at (603) 271-3700.

New Hampshire
*Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food*