

New Hampshire Division of Weights and Measures

Gross Weight v. Net Weight: Taking Accurate Deductions for Tare

“Tare” refers to packaging materials such as bags, trays, and plastic containers. Customers are not expected to pay for tare weights as part of the price per pound. Tare weights shall be deducted in grocery operations or similar establishments. The weight of the tare materials must be subtracted from the gross weight of the packaged product in order to determine the correct net weight and the correct price for the item.

Tare weights are commonly determined by personnel in the meat and produce departments, deli counter, and at the check-out register. The responsibility to accurately deduct tare weights from packages that are weighed at the store lies exclusively with the retailer. See NH RSA 438:25 “Sale by Net Weight.”

Examples

For example, if a customer orders one pound of scallops at the seafood department and the plastic container weighs 0.04 lb, the 0.04 lb tare weight must be deducted from the gross weight. Therefore, if one pound of scallops costs \$11.99/lb, the 0.04 lb tare weight (which would calculate to a .48 cent overcharge based on the price per pound) shall be deducted from the total sale. Similarly, when a customer orders lobsters, the paper bag which could weigh as much as 2 ounces must also be deducted from the purchase prior to weighing the lobsters.

Important Things to Remember About Tare

- Periodically check the tare values stored in the scale.
- Correct any errors immediately.
- Correct mislabeled tare values.
- Update the tare values when packaging material changes.
- Remind clerks and other staff about taking correct tare weights.
- Correct tare weights must be deducted on packaged products produced on and off-site.

For a complete and official version of the Division’s laws and administrative rules go to:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>

For additional information, please contact the Division at
(603) 271-3700 or (603) 271-2894 or

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Division of Weights and Measures