



Guidelines for workers and employers

Weights and Measures



Labour & Human Resource Department
Government of the Punjab



How important is the use of accurate weight and measures for a citizen?

It is one of the basic rights of a citizen to get accurate supply of everyday necessities of life. Therefore, it is the duty of the government to frame laws about weights and measures and make it sure that the things supplied to a citizen are in correct amount and quantity. On the other hand, the consumer should also be aware of their rights to save themselves from cheating and injustice and the laws that protect them in such cases.



What system of weights and measures is used in Punjab?

The present system of weights and measure is governed by the Punjab Weights and Measures (International System) Enforcement Act, 1975 and rules framed in 1976. The use of weights and measures other than the standard weights and measures defined in these laws are prohibited and is punishable with imprisonment and or fine.



What are the fundamental units of weights and measures?

Following are the fundamental units of weights and measures:

Meter: This unit is used to measure length of things like cloth, thread, electric wire, water pipes etc and distances.

Kilogram: This unit is used to measure weight of things like vegetables, fruit, ghee, tea, sugar, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) etc.

Liter: This unit is used to measure the volume of liquids like milk, oil, water, diesel and petrol.



What are the standard weighing and measuring instruments?

Only the weighing and measuring instruments produced according to the specifications defined under the Punjab Weights and Measures (International System) Enforcement Act, 1975 and rules of 1976 are called standard weighing and measuring instruments.

How can a customer know that the shopkeepers etc. Are using standard weighing and measuring instruments?

The standard weighing and measuring instruments are always stamped. If these are not stamped the customer may refuse to deal with the shopkeepers etc.





What is the penalty for forging or using forged weighing and measuring instruments?

Whoever forges or uses forged weighing and measuring instrument with a forged or counterfeit stamp, or a weighing and measuring instrument which has been tampered with can be punished with imprisonment term of two years or a fine of Rs. 10, 000 or both.



Who can manufacture and sell weighing and measuring instruments?

Only the person granted a license by the government can carry on the business of manufacturing or selling weighing and measuring instruments.



How does the government make it sure that weighing and measuring instruments used are standard?

The government appoints Controller of Weights and Measures, Deputy Controller, Assistant Controllers, Inspectors under the relevant Act to inspect and verify that the instruments being used at a particular place comply with the defined standards.

What are secondary standards?

Secondary standards are weights and measures prepared for the purpose of verifying the working standards. They are prepared by government approved authority or person and are according to the specified material weight, length and stamps approved by the government.

What is the ruling about things sold in sealed containers?


It is prohibited to sell any article contained in sealed container unless the package or the container bears the description of net weight or measure of the article packed in it.





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