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### Nevada – GIPSA Scale Test Requirements

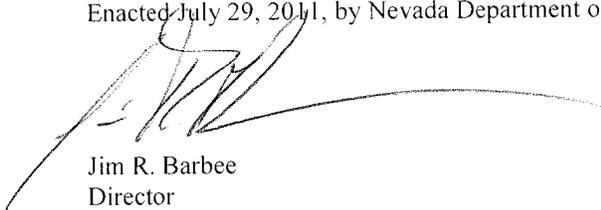
In the past, those businesses that fell under the Packers and Stockyards Act (such as Fallon Livestock Auction, Nevada Livestock Auction, Gallaghers, etc) were all tested, inspected and sealed by Weights and Measures at the same time each year, thus fulfilling the states obligation and requirements. Six months later, Fairbanks Scales (an RSA) would come out and test the same scales using their own weights, and a GIPSA form filled out by Fairbanks was sent to GIPSA.

GIPSA requires simply that a scale “must be tested for accuracy by a competent agency at least each six months”. A RSA with the proper equipment to test and certify any scale as required may provide the required GIPSA test. The RSA must fill out the Nevada – GIPSA Livestock Scale Report form. This form will also note the facility that calibrated the RSA’s standards, the test number, and the last date of calibration. This is to ensure that the RSA’s standards are not out of date. The RSA program is detailed in Nevada Administrative Code 581.300 to 581.400.

Therefore, to comply with GIPSA and the State of Nevada the following requirements must be followed:

1. Any Registered Service Agency (RSA), properly and currently registered and licensed with the State of Nevada Division of Measurement Standards, and possessing adequate and traceable standards with a current certificate of calibration shall be allowed to certify a scale to meet the requirements of GIPSA under the Packers and Stockyards Act. Traceable means that the weights used to test the scale have an unbroken chain of documentation of calibration results that lead to the national standards of mass at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).
2. All RSA’s performing such certifications must fill out completely the approved form that shows all pertinent testing and equipment data. One form will be given to the scale owner and the other will be sent to the Division of Measurement Standards within 48 hours in the same way that a Placed-In-Service report is sent in.
3. Scale owners will send in their copy of the certificate to GIPSA and/or any other parties of interest.
4. This does not absolve the Division of Measurement Standards from performing their annual or biennial inspection, test, and certification of any particular scale used to weigh livestock.

Enacted July 29, 2011, by Nevada Department of Agriculture



Jim R. Barbee  
Director