

Livestock Scale Inspection

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my livestock scale need to be tested?

Per Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 9, a livestock scale that is only used seasonally during any eight-month period of the year must be tested once per year by the state's weights and measures authority. In Nevada, that's the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). Livestock scale test must occur within eight months of its use.

What is required before my scheduled inspection?

Your scale is required to meet certain qualifications to be tested, or an automatic failure may be given. Prior to your scheduled inspection, please make sure:

- scale deck is free of debris, including rocks, dirt, etc.
- scale ramps are level, constructed with solid fill material, smooth and free of excess materials such as metal framework or rubber mats.
- scale ramps are installed prior to inspection.
- beam box is clean and free of wasp, bee, spider or rodent nests.
- corrals are free of livestock.
- alleyways are clear for access of any equipment that may obstruct view of the ground such as panels, pallets, fencing material, water or feed tubs, equipment, tools or animals.
- gates are open or our inspectors are provided any gate codes or key locations in advance.
- digital scales are fully charged or provided with a power supply.
- devices must have an National Type Evaluation Program Certificate of Conformance or meet the criteria of NAC 581.239, subsection two.

It is also important that the scale edges and beams and rails underneath the scale are free of debris. The scale frame should also have nothing tied to, hanging from, or leaning against it.

How can I expect the test to go?

On the day of your inspection, it is best if the ranch or scale owner representative is readily available to provide assistance or answer questions during the inspection. The NDA inspector will begin the inspection by performing a shift test on the scale to simulate the way animals move and test each section of the scale. They will then load weights and check for any scale errors.

Depending on the weight capacity, livestock scales are only allowed to be off by a certain percentage, which is referred to as tolerance. If the scale is out of tolerance, the inspector will check to see if there is anything disrupting the reading such as rocks or debris. If the scale is still found out of tolerance, the inspector will issue a red or blue tag and the scale will need to be repaired.



I've been issued a blue tag. What do I do?

A blue tag is most commonly handed out if something is wrong with the scale. If you have been issued a blue tag, the scale may still be used, but you must repair it in 30 days. If it isn't repaired within that time frame, it may be ordered out of service.

I've been issued a red tag. What do I do?

Red tags are less common and mean NDA inspectors have identified a larger issue with the scale, declaring it out of order. The owner is required to notify the NDA program when the scale has been repaired and is subject to another inspection within 30 days of notifying the NDA. By law, the scale can't be used until it's repaired.

Contact

- **To schedule an inspection:**

☎ Sparks – 775-353-3784

☎ Elko – 775-778-0276

☎ Las Vegas – 702-688-4546

- **To update your contact information, contact the Division of Measurement Standards at 775-353-3783 or email ce@agri.nv.gov.**