

June 6, 2018 Board of Agriculture Update

Division of Consumer Equitability



Division staff has been engaged in analyzing the current fiscal and operational capacity of the Division. Findings from this analysis will be presented to the Board under a separate agenda item.

As of May 22, 2018, the Division had received 136 complaints from consumers this fiscal year to-date. 123 of the complaints, or 90%, were related to quantity, quality or pricing of fuel at retail fuel stations. Of the remaining complaints, eight were related to pricing of items at retail supermarkets, two were related to pricing of items at retail fireworks stores and one was related to the accuracy of payment for items redeemed at a metals recycling facility.

Division staff will attend the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) 103rd Annual Meeting in Tulsa, OK in early July 2018. Staff will participate in workshops and committee meetings, including the Specifications and Tolerances Committee, the Professional Development Committee and the Fuels and Lubricants Subcommittee. Attendance at the conference ensures that Nevada has a voice and vote in the many important policy issues discussed and decided at this event.

Metrology

As of May 22, 2018, Metrology program personnel had calibrated 2,222 devices this fiscal year to-date, with the number of devices calibrated per month increasing significantly in the third quarter of the fiscal year. The increased pace is expected to continue into the summer months.

The Division's newest Metrologist, Kiara Riske, will complete initial National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) metrology training in mid-June. This training is required to obtain NIST-approved signatory status. Typically, completion of this training takes nine to 12 months, but Ms. Riske will have completed it in six months. Having a third NIST-approved signatory will increase the program's capacity to take on additional work from outside customers.

The Western Regional Measurement Assurance Program (WRAP) annual seminar was held May 7 – 10, 2018 in Salt Lake City, UT, serving as our region's site for 2018 NIST Regional Assurance Program (RMAP) training. Jerome Plant, Metrologist II and James Kellames, Metrologist III attended the seminar and training. NIST Handbook 143, Section 5.2, Table 2 requires annual attendance at the RMAP training as a component of ongoing NIST Office of Weights and Measures Laboratory Recognition.

Petroleum Technology

As of early May 2018, Petroleum Technology program personnel had tested 2,512 samples this fiscal year to-date. This sample testing rate is consistent with established program performance measurements.



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In late June 2018, Bill Striejewski, Chemist IV will attend the ASTM International D02 Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels and Lubricants Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Mr. Striejewski serves as Committee Chair for the NCWM Fuels and Lubricants Subcommittee (FALS).

Weights & Measures

As of May 22, 2018, the Division's Weights & Measures Inspectors had completed testing/inspection of 29,325 commercial weighing and measuring devices this fiscal year to-date, representing inspection of 69% of the permanent statewide device inventory. An additional 114 inspections have been performed for devices that are not included on the permanent statewide device inventory.

The number of devices included in the permanent statewide device inventory has increased this fiscal year by 1,920, an increase of approximately 5%. The majority of the devices added to the inventory have been retail fuel dispensers and Class II scales (primarily utilized by marijuana establishments, jewelers and precious metals buyers/sellers).

The Division currently has 13 authorized Weights & Measures Inspector positions, 12 of which are filled. The Weights & Measures Inspector III position based in Elko became vacant in April 2018, when the incumbent accepted a promotional opportunity with the State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. A recruitment for the position is currently open.

The 2018 Livestock Scale Inspection program is scheduled to begin in June and conclude in mid-September. The vacancy of the Elko Weights & Measures Inspector III position will impact this program, with inspectors from the Sparks office filling in to complete livestock scale inspections while a new Weights & Measures Inspector III is recruited and trained.

Invoices for Fiscal Year 2019 weights and measures annual device registrations will be mailed to device owners in early July 2019.