

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICE

Reference : WMO-030524-03
Date : 03 May 2024
To : Authorised Verifiers
Subject : Alteration of weighing and measuring instruments

The Weights and Measures Office ('WMO') recently conducted an inspection of the weighing instruments used for trade purposes by a scrap metal and recycling company. During the inspection, it was found that the weighing instruments were verified and affixed with a valid Accuracy Label and verification seal. However, it was noted that an additional device was found attached to the weighing instruments inspected.

2 The WMO seized the weighing instruments for further investigations, which subsequently revealed that the attached device had the capability to alter the weight displayed on the indicator when manipulated by a separate remote-control device, thereby rendering the readings false.

3 Under Section 11 subsection 1(d) of the Weights and Measures Act (the Act), any person who alters a weighing or measuring instrument used for trade after it has been affixed with a stamp or an Accuracy Label to make it false or unjust is guilty of an offence. The contravention of Section 11(1) of the Act is punishable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000/- or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both. Additionally, all instruments in respect of which the offence(s) were committed are liable to be forfeited.

4 The company mentioned above was consequently fined for contravening Section 11(1)(d) of the Act and had the instruments forfeited. The WMO takes a serious view of any offence and will not hesitate to take strong action in respect of any breaches under the Act. Egregious cases may be referred to the Police for further action.

5 We urge all Authorized Verifiers to remain vigilant and to actively look out for any form of alterations to weighing and measuring instruments during the verification process. AVs have the right to refuse verification if there is a reasonable reason not to e.g., instrument is found to be altered or not of the original construct/design and potentially tampered with. If any suspected alterations or tampering are discovered, please take appropriate photos and report them to the WMO immediately. The WMO will maintain the confidentiality of all feedback.

6 Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Issued by:

The Weights and Measures Office

This is a computer-generated circular and no signature is required.