



*VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES*

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TESTING AND
INSPECTION ACTIVITIES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PROGRAM**

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Commissioner**

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**Annual Report on the Testing and Inspection Activities of the
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Weights and Measures Program**

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Legislative Mandate

Section 3.2-5609(B) of the Code of Virginia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Weights and Measures Program of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) inspected 89,316 weighing and measuring devices used in commercial transactions in the Commonwealth, which is a two percent decrease from the previous fiscal year. This decrease is counterbalanced by a 19 percent increase in price verification audits and 28 percent increase in packaged commodity sampling. The frequency with which VDACS inspects each device that is subject to inspection is approximately once every 21 months. Staff also collected 4,948 motor fuel samples, which is an increase of 48 percent from the 3,345 collected in fiscal year 2024, and investigated 364 consumer complaints, which is down from 460 in 2024.

OVERVIEW

The Weights and Measures Program promotes equity in the marketplace through the uniform administration of weights and measures laws and regulations. For fiscal year (FY) 2025, the program received a general fund appropriation of \$3,627,871.00 and was staffed with 42 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. In addition to the central office in Richmond, the program has regional offices located in Harrisonburg and Wytheville.

Program staff tests retail devices that are used to dispense gasoline, diesel fuel, fuel oils, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and kerosene. Staff also test devices used to weigh retail purchases, road and other construction materials, agricultural products, and household goods. These devices include retail scales; medium-capacity bench, counter, and floor scales; moisture machines; and large capacity devices, such as bulk plant meters, vehicle tank meters, warehouse scales, farm scales, vehicle on-board weighing systems, vehicle scales, hopper scales, livestock scales, and railroad scales. In addition to inspecting devices, staff collects samples to verify the quality of motor fuels sold in Virginia, provides calibration tests at the Weights and Measures Program's Metrology Laboratory, determines the accuracy of point-of-sale systems (scanners), verifies the accuracy of packaged commodities, enforces advertising and method-of-sale requirements, and investigates related complaints.

INSPECTION AND COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

The estimated number of weighing and measuring devices that are used commercially in Virginia and that are subject to inspection is 147,803.

Device	Est. Number
Petroleum Product Dispensers	107,987
Computing/Hanging/Counter/Platform Scales	33,655
Counterweights	687
Vehicle Tank Meters	1,234
Vehicle Scales	1,250
Medium Capacity Scales	1,280
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Meters	1,310
Farm Scales	200
Livestock Scales	82
Bulk Rack Meters	35
Railroad Scales	35
Monorail Scales	31
Belt Conveyor Scales	10
Vehicle On-Board Weighing Systems	7
Total	147,803

During the reporting period, staff inspected 89,316 weighing and measuring devices, including 70,069 petroleum product dispensers, 13 stroke pumps, 601 metering devices, 438 counterweights, 31 peanut moisture machines, and 18,164 scales. The total devices inspected decreased from the previous year by approximately two percent. This decrease is counterbalanced by a 19 percent increase in price verification audits and 28 percent increase in packaged commodity sampling. Of the 89,316 weighing and measuring devices inspected, 21,549 were rejected for inaccuracies. Staff also collected 4,948 motor fuel samples, which is an increase of 48 percent from the 3,345 collected in FY 2024. Laboratory analysis revealed that of the 4,948 motor fuel samples collected, 283 were in violation. Staff spent approximately 1,645 hours investigating 364 consumer complaints submitted to the Office of Weights and Measures (OWM), which is down from 460 in FY 2024. Of the 364 complaints submitted, 252 pertained to weighing and measuring devices, 18 pertained to price advertising, 64 pertained to motor fuel quality, and 30 were classified as “other.” The table below contains select performance data dating back to FY 2016.

Year	Estimated Number of Devices	Devices Inspected	Motor Fuel Samples	Complaints Investigated
FY 2025	147,803	89,316	4,948	364
FY 2024	144,662	91,518	3,345	460
FY 2023	142,006	83,432	4,731	433
FY 2022	139,728	80,864	5,011	491
FY 2021	138,144	89,837	4,629	375
FY 2020	137,389	92,684	4,491	355
FY 2019	138,564	90,641	4,825	503
FY 2018	135,805	87,409	5,269	520
FY 2017	134,532	74,026	4,839	427
FY 2016	132,939	70,331	4,471	475

Along with devices, OWM staff verify the weight of commodities sold in package form and conduct audits of point-of-sale systems. Staff sampled 25,930 packaged commodities to check for accurate weight and conducted 69,905 price verifications on point-of-sale systems. Staff in the Metrology Laboratory performed 10,089 calibration tests and tested 2,545 radar tuning forks.

Compliance staff assessed approximately \$30,620 in civil penalties for violations of the Weights and Measures Law, the Motor Fuels and Lubricating Oils Law, and the Service Agencies and Technicians Law. Additionally, staff issued 66 Notices of Violation and 80 Letters of Warning for infractions of these laws.

Through these efforts, the VDACS Weights and Measures Program provides assurance to both consumers and businesses that critical weighing and measuring devices used in the Commonwealth meet the required specifications.