



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

March 29, 2004

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

DIVISION OF  
RECYCLING

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To: All Certified Operators of Recycling Centers

Subject: Short Weighing on Scales

The Los Angeles County Department of Weights and Measures recently performed widespread tests of scales at recycling centers and found that 20% of the scales checked were registering short weights. These findings are very serious and have resulted in significant fines and penalties being imposed by the County. With the extent of these findings, we would expect that other counties will be performing their own scale testing.

While the inspection frequency and sealing requirements vary by county, it is a violation of the law to pay on an incorrect weight.

**It is a Division of Recycling priority to ensure that the recycling public is treated fairly and paid properly when they redeem their bottles and cans at certified recycling centers, and we will forward any findings regarding scales to the appropriate county weights and measures department.**

The Division has requested that local weights and measures authorities notify the Division when certified recycling centers are cited for not having their scales properly sealed or the scales are not weighing properly. In addition to any other penalties we or the county may impose, if there is continued non-compliance with the established scale requirements, the Division can pursue revocation of your certification that allows you to pay and collect California Redemption Value payments.

We recommend recycling centers have their scales inspected more frequently than the minimum requirements in the law. In addition, we recommend that tare weights be checked at least daily, and more often if contamination from containers could affect the tare weights.

If you have any questions, you may contact your local weights and measures office or Bob DaRosa of the Certification Services Branch at (916) 323-3008.

Sincerely,

Jim Ferguson  
Assistant Director  
For Recycling

cc: Bob DaRosa, Supervisor, Recycler Inspections Section  
California County Sealers of Weight and Measures