

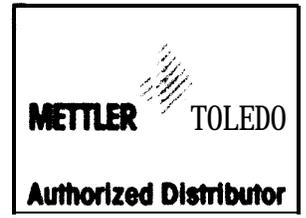
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DESKIN

SCALE COMPANY, INC.

A Perfect Balance of Quality and Service

ORIGINAL



437 W. McGee Street P.O. Box 3272 Springfield, MO. 65808-3272 • (417)883-0055 Fax(417)883-1903

Docket No. FHWA-1997-2979 - 1/5

Written Testimony of
Dan R. Whitescarver
 Vice President and General Manager
Deskin Scale Company, Inc.
 Springfield, MO
 (417) 883-0055

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Deskin Scale has been serving scale needs in the four state area for over 80 years and have been a distributor for Mettler-Toledo Scales since 1951. I personally have been involved for over 35 years and have seen many technological advances over those years. The regulatory guide for our industry, has since 1949, been the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 44 which has been adopted by all of the states.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has a statutory responsibility for "cooperation with the States in securing uniformity of weights and measures laws and methods of inspection."

The following are taken in context from Handbook 44:

G-A.1. Commercial and Law-Enforcement Equipment. – These specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements apply as follows:

- (a) To commercial weighing and measuring equipment; that is, to weights and measures and weighing and measuring devices commercially used or employed in establishing size, quantity, extent, area, or measurement of quantities, things, produce, or articles for distribution or consumption, purchased, offered, or submitted for sale, hire, award, or in computing any basic charge or payment for services rendered on the basis of weight or measure.
- (b) To any accessory attached to or used in connection with a commercial weighing or measuring device when such accessory is so designed that its operation affects the accuracy of the device.
- (c) To weighing and measuring equipment in official use for the enforcement of law or for the collection of statistical information by government agencies.

S.2.4.1 Vehicle On-Board Weighing Systems. – A vehicle on-board weighing system shall operate within tolerance when the weighing system is out of level up to 3 degrees or 5 percent. If accuracy of the system is affected by out-of-level conditions normal to the use of the device, the system shall be equipped with an out of level sensor that inhibits the weighing operation when the system is out of level to the extent that the accuracy limits are exceeded. (Added 1992)

N.1.3.7. Vehicle On-Board Weighing Systems. – The **shift** test for a vehicle on-board weighing system shall be conducted in a manner consistent with its normal use. For systems that weigh as part of the **lifting** cycle, the center of gravity of the load may be shifted in the vertical direction as well as **from** side to side. In other cases, the center of gravity may be moved to the extremes of the load-receiving element using loads of a magnitude that reflect normal use (i.e., the load for the shift test may exceed one-half the **scale** capacity), and may, in some cases, be equal to the capacity of the scale. The shift test may be **conducted** when the weighing system is out of level to the extent that the weighing system remains **operational**. (Added 1992)

Table 7a. Identifies vehicle on-board weighing systems as a Class III L device.

Table 6. Shows that the maintenance tolerance for a Class III L device is 1 scale division for loads up to 500 divisions, 2 scale divisions for loads from 501 divisions to 1000 divisions and an additional 1 scale division for every 500 divisions or fraction thereof

G-T.2. Maintenance Tolerances. – Maintenance tolerances shall apply to equipment in actual use, except as provided in G-T. 1.

G-T.1. Acceptance Tolerances. – Acceptance tolerances shall apply to:

- (a) Equipment to be put into commercial use for the **first** time;
- (b) Equipment that has been placed in commercial service within the preceding **30** days and is being **officially tested for the first time**;
- (c) Equipment that has been returned to commercial service following official rejection for failure to conform to performance requirements and is being tested for the first time within **30** days after corrective service;
- (d) Equipment that is being **officially tested** for the first time within **30** days after **major** reconditioning or overhaul; and
- (e) Equipment undergoing type evaluation.

T.N.3.2 Acceptance Tolerance Values. – The acceptance tolerance values shall **be** one-half the **maintenance** tolerance values.

Table 4. States that a scale with capacity of 3,001 to 40,000 lb must be tested with known test weights of **12.5%** and substitution loads up to **50%**.

The only on-board weighing systems that I am aware of that are actually accepted for commercial use are **fork lift** scales and lifting devices for trash haulers which use load cells connected to the forks for **measuring** and do not in any way derive weight information from the pressure of hydraulics or air. It has **been** our experience that those who do rely on hydraulics or air pressure do not repeat to any degree of **accuracy** which is demanded by **H-44** and therefore in the interest of the consumer should not be considered for use.

It is our opinion that the consumer's best interest will only be served by use of those devices which meet the requirements of **H-44**.