



Scale Information

Kentucky Department of Agriculture



Plant Marketing Division - Ginseng Program • 111 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601 • (502) 573-0282

Dealers purchase American ginseng and other forest-harvested herbs by weight. It is important when conducting sales to have the correct weight. It is a good business practice to obtain accurate weights. Additionally, you must record the weights for each ginseng transaction on a provided Purchase Form. A certified legal for trade scale is the lawful way to measure weights of your products.

Is my scale legal for trade?

All scales used for commercial sales, including conducting ginseng business, must be legal for trade, made for commercial use, and accurate.

A legal for trade scale will be marked with the following:

- A serial number.
- A model number.
- Class III designation on the identification plate or seal.

All scales put into service in Kentucky after July 1, 2003 must have a National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) certificate of conformance. Scales that were in use prior to July 1, 2003 are exempt from this regulation.

Scales to review further

- Scales marked "Not Legal for Trade" are not acceptable. Baby scales or kitchen scales are two types of scales that are not legal. Additionally, most postal scales are not legal for trade.
- Hanging scales are allowed as long as they meet all of the legal for trade criteria. Vendors selling scales should be able to inform the purchaser that a scale is Handbook 44 compliant. There are some hanging scales that do not meet these criteria, so it is important to get the assurance from the vendor in writing.

What makes my scale certified?

- It is the responsibility as the scale owner to have the device inspected and to maintain the accuracy of the scale. Scales should be inspected annually.
- Inspections may occur any time of the year, not just at the start of ginseng season. Inspectors with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) conduct these inspections.
- The inspector will place a sticker when scale that passes inspection and provide you a print out. Your scale is certified for twelve months.

How to get my scale inspected?

- For the 2020 season, you will need to call (502) 573-0282 to request a scale inspection. Procedures and availability is limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.