

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution



Department of Consumer Affairs Amends Legal Metrology Rules for Verification of High-Capacity Weighing Instruments

Amendment reduces compliance burden, lowers verification costs and promotes Ease of Doing Business

Scientific Verification Method Reduces Standard Weight Requirement While Maintaining Accuracy

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In a significant Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) initiative, the Department of Consumer Affairs has amended the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011 to substantially reduce the requirement of standard weights for verification of high-capacity weighing instruments by introducing a scientific, repeatability-based verification approach.

The earlier provisions required that, while verifying weighing instruments having a maximum capacity of one tonne and above, standard weights of at least one tonne or 50 per cent of the maximum capacity of the instrument, whichever was greater, had to be used before substitution with constant loads. This requirement often resulted in significant logistical challenges, transportation costs and operational difficulties for industries and weighbridge operators.

Under the revised provisions, the requirement has been rationalised. Based on the successful conduct of the repeatability test, the mandatory quantity of standard weights required before substitution with constant loads has been reduced from 50 per cent of the maximum capacity to only one-fifth (20 per cent) of the maximum capacity, while maintaining the prescribed standards of verification accuracy and reliability.

Major Benefits of the Reform

- Significant reduction in compliance burden for industries, warehouses, logistics operators and weighbridge owners.
- Lower transportation and handling costs associated with movement of large quantities of standard weights.
- Faster verification of high-capacity weighing instruments, reducing operational downtime.

- Improved efficiency of Legal Metrology verification activities without compromising accuracy or consumer protection.
- Promotion of Ease of Doing Business through simplified, science-based regulatory requirements.
- Better utilisation of verification resources by Government authorities.

Scientific Basis of the Amendment

The reform is based on internationally accepted metrological principles, wherein the repeatability test establishes the consistency and stability of the weighing instrument, thereby enabling reliable verification with a reduced quantity of standard weights.

Strengthening Legal Metrology through Evidence-Based Reforms

The amendment reflects the Department's continued commitment to modernising the Legal Metrology framework through evidence-based regulatory reforms that balance facilitation of trade with robust consumer protection.

The Department has been undertaking a series of reforms to simplify compliance, reduce regulatory burden, strengthen the verification ecosystem and promote the use of technology in Legal Metrology. This latest amendment is another important step towards creating a more efficient, transparent and industry-friendly regulatory environment while ensuring accuracy, fairness and confidence in commercial transactions.

RT/ SB / ARC

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