

The Consolidated Weights and Measures Act Report to the Pennsylvania General Assembly Title 3 Pa C.S.A. Chapter 41, Title 70 For Calendar Year 2020

March 1, 2021

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Overview

Consumer protection is a critical part of the work done by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The Division of Weights and Measures exists for one reason: making sure Pennsylvania consumers get what they pay for.

The Division of Weights and Measures, part of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards, was created to ensure equity in the marketplace through laws and regulations, uniform inspection and testing procedures, and certified and knowledgeable inspectors.

The division is empowered through the Consolidated Weights and Measures Act, Title 3 Pa C.S.A. Chapter 41, with additional regulations found in Title 70. The act requires the department to describe all relevant activities of the state inspectors of weights and measures, Certified Examiners of Weights and Measures (CEWMs), and city and county sealers of weights and measures for the preceding calendar year.

The division is required to inspect weighing and measuring devices on a set schedule: either an annual inspection or at some greater interval not to exceed every fifth year, depending on the device. The division conducts these inspections through its regionally assigned inspectors and supervisors and CEWMs. These inspectors and supervisors work with the remaining county and city sealers who conduct weights and measures activities in their respective jurisdictions through an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding with the department.

Since the last significant update to the Consolidated Weights and Measures Act in 1985, 53 counties have dropped their sealer programs adding almost 75,000 devices to be inspected by the division. Exacerbating the situation is a 2012 amendment to the Act which removed Fuel Dispenser Meters (FDMs a.k.a. gas pumps) and Vehicle Tank Meters (VTMs a.k.a. home heating oil truck meters) from

the list of eligible devices to use in the CEWM program. The additional devices equate to an increase in inspection personnel that exceeds the bureau's budgetary ability, necessitating programmatic changes starting with the Act.

Included in the appendices of this report are the spreadsheets outlining the activities of the division's personnel, county and city sealers, and CEWMs for 2020. The appendices also include a map that identifies the seven regions into which the division is divided, the supervisors responsible for each region, and the existing county and city sealer programs with their respective contact information.

Consumer Education and Outreach

As part of the commonwealth's transparency efforts, the division continues to use its online inspection database that allows consumers to access inspection reports. This application can be found www.pda.state.pa.us/WMInspections for inspections prior to June 2020; https://www.pairs.uat.pa.gov/pairs-weights/Home/Search for inspections conducted after June 2020.

The website also includes an online complaint form that consumers can use to alert the department to potentially inaccurate devices. The number of consumer complaints by location is included as part of the report spreadsheets in the appendix (Exhibit A).

The "Tested and Approved" and "Rejected" seals placed on each item inspected by the department feature the state's toll-free number, 1-877-TEST-007, which consumers can use to register complaints or concerns about scales, gas pumps, and other state-regulated measuring devices. The red rejected seal serves as a warning to consumers that the device needs service or repair. These seals indicate a pending issue that the department is working with the device owner to correct. In many cases, a device with a rejected seal may still be in service if the issue is a repair that does not affect the accuracy of the device, or if the accuracy of the device is in the consumer's favor. Devices found to be out of operational condition, or beyond the acceptable tolerance levels and detrimental to the consumer, are taken out of service immediately until repairs are made and the device is found to be operating within allowable tolerances.

Weights and Measures Inspections

The Division of Weights and Measures is responsible for inspecting devices like scales and meters, small-retail to large-capacity truck scales, truck-mounted fuel meters, liquid propane gas meters, retail fuel pumps, compressed natural gas meters, grain moisture meters, load rack meters, timing devices (except parking meters), and all consumer price scanning systems.

Inspection Details

The division inspects all devices in 54 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and provides support to the remaining 12 county sealer programs and one city sealer program. The division is also responsible for ensuring consumer questions and concerns are addressed in a timely manner. A list of sealer programs can be found in Exhibit B.

Enforcement Actions

The state, through Act 155 of 1996, adopts many of the federal standards created by the National Institute of Standards and Technology as found in its Handbook 44, Handbook 130, and other related publications. As devices and systems are found to be faulty or beyond the acceptable tolerance levels, action is taken to acknowledge the concerns of the state formally and bring the device into compliance. Written warnings are the first step in acknowledging an issue with a device or with a business or vendor. The number of warnings, citations and prosecutions are included in the appendix (Exhibit A) of this report.

Certified Examiner of Weights and Measures Program

Act 155 of 1996 amended PA C.S.A. Chapter 41, § 4110 (a)(4) and authorizes the department to use private industry professionals who have been trained and certified to conduct field level inspections on behalf of the department. With this use of department trained, tested and certified professionals, the weights and measures division personnel serve as the quality control auditors who monitor this program's implementation, provide the final assurances that the law is being upheld, and ensure that certified examiners are protecting the consumers they represent.

The CEWM program applies only to devices under the direct responsibility of the department to inspect. Understanding the need to monitor these inspections, the department is diligent in its duty to conduct random and thorough inspections and audits of all CEWM program inspections, as mandated.

The program suffered a setback in 2012 when device types (Vehicle Tank Meters [VTM] and Fuel Dispenser Meters [FDM]) were removed from the list of eligible devices removing a valuable opportunity for the program to leverage this private public partnership opportunity in meaningful way. Successful use of the CEWM program allows the bureau to conduct more inspections with little or no additional costs in equipment or personnel.

Currently the bureau has CEWMs for liquid propane gas (LPG) devices. The bureau expanded the program to include large capacity scales (LCS) in spring 2016. The number of devices inspected by CEWMs are represented in the appendix (Exhibit A) included in this report.

Certified UPC/PLU Inspector Program

In line with the Consolidated Weights and Measures Act, the division developed a Certified Universal Product Code (UPC) and Price Look-Up (PLU) Inspector Program. Scanning systems and devices are inspected annually by the division or private business, as allowed by the act. UPC/PLU device inspectors complete a training course conducted by the division every three years.

Fuel Quality (Octane) Testing Program

In line with the Consolidated Weights and Measures Act, the division developed a fuel quality testing program that randomly samples gasoline at retail locations to ensure that the octane content advertised meets established standards. This program is separate from the bureau's ongoing ability to address individual consumer concerns for specific fuel quality issues.

The bureau collected 0 random fuel samples from retailers throughout Pennsylvania in 2020; of the 0 samples tested, none failed.

In addition to the random fuel quality testing, the division tested 26 consumer fuel quality samples in 2020 in response to consumer complaints. Of the 26 samples tested, four failed and the retailers resolved the issues immediately.

Appendix

Please see the following appendices, including:

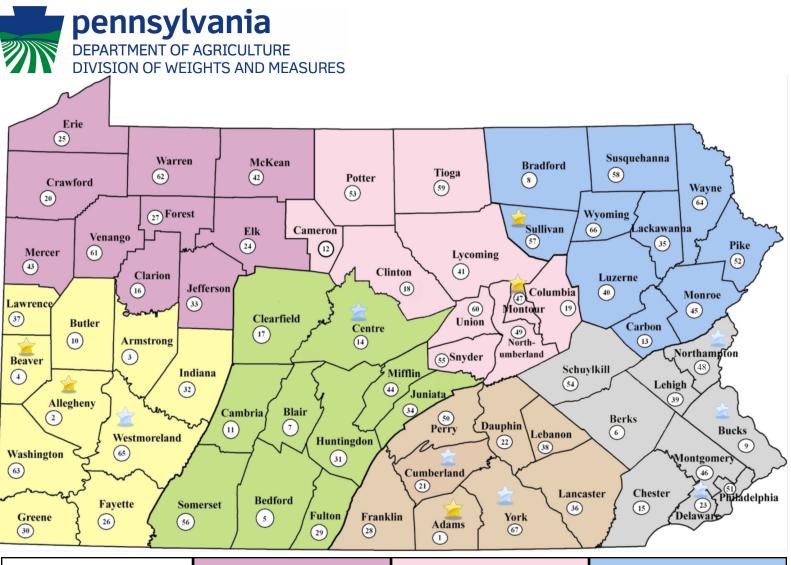
- 2020 Yearly Inspection Activity Table
- Regional and County Sealer Map



			SCALES				MISC ¹	*	TIME D	EVICE					METER	S					UPC / P	RICE	PKG C	HECK	EVICE	MER	IEN NGS	TIONS
	0 to 1,000		1,001-10	,000	10,00)1+	IVIISC	1	I IIVIE DE	EVICE	FC	М	VT	M	ı	.PG	HV)	GN	ИΜ	VERIFICA		LO	TS	TOTAL DEVICES INSPECTED	CONSUMER	WRITI	SECUT
State Bureau	Small	Reject	Medium	Reject	Large	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	System	Reject	Tested	Reject	ρ-	0 8	>	PRO
Region 1	1,736	123	25	3	51	9	34	17	0	0	2,174	386	174	25	9	1	166	14	26	5	6	2	0	0	4,401	8	14	1
Region 2	1,139	20	64	3	159	20	0	0	0	0	1,363	128	192	18	42	1	158	21	48	0	0	0	14	1	3,179	13	2	0
Region 3	2,326	135	123	24	293	71	0	0	0	0	3,039	335	16	0	0	0	507	60	2	0	0	0	0	0	6,306	22	0	0
Region 4	1,744	127	91	15	336	76	0	0	0	0	2,918	434	125	25	13	1	14	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	5,257	16	0	0
Region 5	1,349	43	41	5	187	27	3	1	0	0	3,525	264	138	13	69	4	594	56	38	2	0	0	0	0	5,944	4	0	0
Region 6	3,658	98	280	44	303	45	0	0	0	0	7,028	584	365	41	11	1	723	53	136	0	8	0	0	0	12,512	17	3	0
Region 7	5,490	527	59	11	27	9	4	0	0	0	4,411	1,295	26	1	0	0	134	51	0	0	0	0	16	4	10,167	39	0	0
Total	17,442	1,073	683	105	1,356	257	41	18	0	0	24,458	3,426	1,036	123	144	8	2,296	256	266	7	14	2	30	5	47,766	119	19	1
Counties / Cities	·	·																										
Adams	639	46	8	4			0	0	0	0	84	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	731	16	0	0
Allegheny	4,587	254	406	12			11	0	877	62	11,496	584	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	625	21	1	0	18,003	44	2	1
Beaver	471	5	46	0			12	0	30	0	1,206	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	1	0	0	1,819	24	0	0
Bucks	2,421	27	0	0			0	0	990	74	1,630	70	220	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	519	8	0	0	5,780	16	0	0
Centre	662	23	0	0			0	0	80	5	1,160	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	1,932	0	0	0
City of Scranton	286	26	0	0			45	0	0	0	278	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	609	11	3	0
Cumberland	1,230	41	25	2			0	0	0	0	2,546	318	123	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3,925	6	0	0
Delaware	1,442	43	0	0			0	0	1,281	71	1,563	181	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	345	3	27	1	4,662	8	19	1
Montour	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northampton	1,981	46	14	2			0	0	374	27	2,144	104	101	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	25	0	0	4,703	11	0	0
Sullivan	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westmoreland	1,121	31	0	0			0	0	100	3	2,516	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	322	28	0	0	4,059	7	8	47
York	2,052	65	2	0			17	0	127	7	6,892	316	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	1	0	0	9,115	4	0	0
Total	16,892	607	501	20			85	o	3,859	249	31,515	1,761	448	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,010	87	28	1	55,338	147	32	49



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		SCALES							MISC * TIME DEVICE			 				MET				1 -		UPC /			PKG CHECK		CONSUMER	WRITTEN	OSECUTIONS
		0 to 1,000		1,001-1	10,000	10,001 +					1	FDM		VTM		LPG		н	HVD		им I	VERIFIC	CATION	L	.OTS	OTAL DEVICE INSPECTED	ONSI	WRIT	SECU
Badge Id	State Bureau by Inspector	Small	Reject	Medium	Reject	Large	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Tested	Reject	Systems	Reject	Tested	Reject	Þ =	0 8	>	PRO
Badge 11	Brad Lundberg	56	9	0	0	22	6	0	0	0	0	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	26	5	0	0	0	0	116	2	1	0
Badge 12	Jeff Wiles	735	22	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	736	88	172	25	9	1	146	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	1,809	3	1	0
Badge 13	Kevin Kean	287	26	4	1	14	3	0	0	0	0	208	30	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	528	1	2	1
Badge 15	Richard Bristow	658	66	12	1	15	0	33	17	0	0	1,220	268	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,948	2	10	0
Badge 20	Craig Fester	140	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	14	1	269	0	0	0
Badge 21	Ed Arnoldi	272	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	434	27	192	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	901	0	0	0
Badge 22	Steve Hopkins Mark Gordner	455 272	12 2	24 35	2	0 156	0	0	0	0	0	691 134	72 25	0	0	42 0	0	158 0	21 0	0 42	0	0	0	0	0	1,370 639	0	0	0
Badge 23 Badge 30	Mike McGoff	336	39	0	0	0	19 0	0	0	0	0	556	105	0	0	0	0	115	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.007	22	0	0
Badge 31	VACANT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Badge 32	Ed Harding	136	2	123	24	293	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	552	0	0	0
Badge 33	David Morreale	997	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,430	84	16	0	0	0	173	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,616	0	0	0
Badge 34	Luke Marcy	857	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,053	146	0	0	0	0	219	39	2	0	0	0	0	0	2,131	0	0	0
Badge 40	Joshua Stepanian	38	2	6	0	28	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	0
Badge 42	Douglas Grant	810	54	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,079	146	0	0	0	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,904	0	0	0
Badge 43	Ron Pierce	335	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,050	242	117	25	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,512	0	0	0
Badge 44	Chris Brenner	561	18	84	15	308	74	0	0	0	0	789	46	8	0	3	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	1,762	0	0	0
Badge 50	Timothy Yahner	125	2	5	1	37	1	3	1	0	0	615	57	0	0	0	0	59	7	7	2	0	0	0	0	851	0	0	0
Badge 51	William Cambridge	741	20	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	1,992	132	135	13	0	0	340	40	14	0	0	0	0	0	3,233	0	0	0
	Jame Polonia	85	2	32	4	135	26	0	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	264	0	0	0
Badge 53	Mike Robison	398	19	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	906	71	3	0	69	4	195	9	17	0	0	0	0	0	1,596	0	0	0
Badge 60 Badge 61	John Dillabaugh Joe Gangai	403 194	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120 2.066	6 123	0	0	0	0	0 535	0 39	46 0	0	0	0	0	0	570 2.795	8	3	0
Badge 62	Kim Harner	374	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	162	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	536	0	0	0
Badge 63	Sarah Conrad	1,338	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,581	103	88	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3,009	2	0	0
Badge 64	Jared Darrenkamp	913	22	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1,479	176	128	8	0	0	29	0	57	0	0	0	0	0	2,608	6	0	0
Badge 65	Shaun Laughman	406	27	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,620	176	149	20	11	1	159	14	33	0	6	0	0	0	2,387	0	0	0
Badge 66	Dave Irvin	30	3	276	44	301	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	607	1	0	0
Badge 70	Tammy Luckenbill	118	5	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	8	3	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	155	0	0	0
Badge 71	John O'Brien	870	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,216	432	0	0	0	0	18	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,104	8	0	0
Badge 72	VACANT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Badge 73	David Patchell	971	124	40	9	18	6	0	0	0	0	842	235	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	4	1,887	5	0	0
Badge 74	Chris Newton	1,665	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	785	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2,451	11	0	0
Badge 76	Keith Fryslin VACANT	734 0	147 0	19 0	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	898 0	390 0	3 0	0	0	0	115 0	43 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,776 0	3	0	0
Badge 77 Badge 79	Jose Belpre	1,132	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	662	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,794	12	0	0
Total	Jose Beipre	17,442	1,073	683	105	1,356	257	41	18	0	0	24,458	3,426	1,036	123	144	8	2,296	256	266	7	14	2	30	5	47,766	86	17	1
CEWM Inspections		17,772	1,073	003	103	1,330	237	71	10	Ů		24,430	3,420	1,030	123	177		2,230	230	200	<u> </u>	17		30		47,700	- 00	1,	
LPG-122																15	0	T								15	T.		
																14	1									14			
LPG-398																	1												
LPG-402																12	0									12			
LPG-408																19	0									19			
LPG-432																103	1									103			
LPG-435																4	0									0			
LPG-446																12	0									12			
LPG-450																2	0									2			
LPG-451																10	0									10			
LPG-453																5	0									5			
LPG-471																15	0									15			
																	_												
LPG-474																12	9									12			
LPG-487																3	0									3			
LPG-489																4	0									4			
LPG-490																2	0									2			
Total																232	11									232			
Statewide Totals		34,334	1,680	1,184	125	1,356	257	126	18	3,859	249	55,973	5,187	1,484	159	376	19	2,296	256	266	7	2,024	89	58	6	103,336	233	49	50



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Sealer program without fees

Sealer program with fees

State Toll-Free Consumer Line 1-877-TEST-007