



Oregon

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Department of Agriculture

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National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Informational Handout

What is NTEP?

The National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) is an evaluation program administered by the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). Type evaluation is the process whereby weighing and measuring devices are examined to determine if the performance, operating characteristics, features and options of a particular device complies with the applicable requirements of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44.

When was NTEP established?

NCWM, in conjunction with industry and weights and measures officials, established a Task Force to develop NTEP in 1976. NTEP was later established in 1984 and is a cooperative program among manufacturers, users, and weights and measures officials.

Why was it established?

The purpose of NTEP was to establish a uniform set of criteria and test procedures for the evaluation of commercial weighing and measuring devices. Before the adoption of NTEP there were 16 different type approval agencies in the United States. With the establishment of NTEP, a single evaluation can satisfy all states. In addition to promoting uniformity it

- reduces cost and time in getting a device to market.
- reduces the burden on state type approval programs.
- reduces costly mistakes to device users.
- enables tests to be conducted prior to the device being sold for commercial use.

An NTEP evaluation is the one time that a device is subjected to testing that includes maximum capacities and all features specified by the manufacturer. Presently, 44 of the 50 states are NTEP states. That means they require an NTEP Certificate of Conformance (CC) for any device used commercially in their state.

Is Oregon an NTEP state?

Yes. This means that device manufacturers must submit their devices for an NTEP evaluation prior to the devices being sold for commercial use. The user and/or service company must purchase and sell only devices with an NTEP CC if the device is to be used commercially (unless it meets the exceptions of OAR 603-027-0640(2)(d)). The weights and measures officials must verify that the specific model of the device is covered by the NTEP CC and is set up consistent with the CC.

Why do I need to know this?

All devices put into commercial use in the state of Oregon after August 1990 must have an NTEP CC, or meet the exceptions of OAR 603-027-0640(2)(d).

Where can I find NTEP CC's?

All CC's are available on the NCWM website at <http://www.ncwm.net/ntep/index.cfm?fuseaction=search>. The manufacturer of a device should also be able to provide you with NTEP information concerning their device.

Weights & Measures Program

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