



Town of Belmont Sealer of Weights and Measures

**Hours of operation – By appointment only**  
**(617) 993-2720**

The Sealer of Weights and Measures is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that equity and fairness prevails in the commercial marketplace between buyers and sellers.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures enforces all laws, ordinances pertaining to measuring devices used by Belmont business establishments such as deli and market scales and scanners, gas station pumps, taximeters, package shipping scales and pharmacy scales.

Specifically the Sealer of Weights and Measures enforces MGL chapter 98 and the Consumer Merchant Protection Act, Chapter 295 (1998). The Sealer guarantees accuracy of regulated devices through random and mandatory annual inspections and regulatory tests and procedures where all devices are inspected for accuracy and completeness.

The Sealer will investigate complaints for short weight and price representation and use of illegal and/or non-conforming devices. The Sealer may issue civil citations for non-compliance with weights and measures law.

## Links and other Information

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 98 – **Weights and Measures**  
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-98-toc.htm>

Federal Handbook 44 – **Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices**  
<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/230/235/h44-05.htm>

Online Measurement and **Conversion Utility**  
<http://www.convert-me.com/en/>

# Consumer Tips

## • When You Shop

### ***Receive the right price:***

Electronic scanning is not foolproof, the wrong price can be charged. As a result the Sealer may inspect stores randomly and on an unannounced basis to make sure their prices are right.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Watch the display screen for prices. If you think you're being overcharged, speak up. Ask about the store's policy on pricing errors, and ask the cashier to make the adjustment before you pay.
- Bring a copy of the store's flyer or newspaper ad to the checkout counter.
  - Check your receipt before you walk away. If you notice an error, ask the cashier to adjust the total. If you've already left the cashier's lane, see the store manager or department manager to correct any mistakes.
- If the problem is not resolved, contact the Belmont Sealer of Weights and Measures.

### ***Receive the right weight***

Pay only for the product and not for the packaging. When you buy meats or produce wrapped in packaged materials, you should pay only for the net weight of the product. If you buy potato salad at the deli counter you should pay only for the salad, not for the weight of the container. In many stores, the electronic or computerized scales used at the check-out counter are set to automatically deduct the weight of the packaging. On other scales, the sales clerk must adjust the scale to manually deduct the packaging materials. **Scales must be placed so you can see the weight.** If you are uncertain, ask to have the package weighed again before you buy. Ask if the weight of the packaging has been deducted.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Watch the scale and the amount registered. The scale should be placed so you can see the weight, price and other information displayed.
- Make sure the scale shows a zero or minus sign before anything is weighed. Pay **ONLY** for the product, **NOT** for the packaging.
- If you have any questions about how a store weighs or measures products, ask the manager for information first. He or she should answer your questions.
- If the problem is not resolved, contact the Belmont Sealer of Weights and Measures.

## • When You Purchase Gasoline

### ***Receive the right amount:***

The Belmont Sealer of Weights and Measures routinely checks all gasoline pumps for accuracy. If violations are found, the seller can be fined and the product removed.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Be sure you or the attendant are using the correct pump. The octane rating and the price per gallon or liter should be clearly marked on each pump.
- Be sure the pump is set to zero before any gasoline is pumped
- All prices posted have to agree. If a price is posted "lower" than what is charged at the pump, the station is not in compliance with the law. All grades of gasoline must be posted at the dispenser with the price and octane quality.
- All parts of the gasoline dispenser have to be in proper working condition. Any leaks, broken nozzles, missing indicator elements or worn hoses must be repaired immediately by the station.
- Also, avoid purchasing gasoline when you see a "gasoline storage tanker" delivering gasoline to the station. When the high volume of product empties into the underground storage tank it can "stir up" sediments located at the bottom of the tank. If the station has a poor filter, this sediment will end up in your tank, clogging your gasoline filter.
- If you have a problem that is not resolved with the gas station, contact the Belmont Sealer of Weights and Measures.