



MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
Weights & Measures Inspectorate

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: MAKING PURCHASES BASED ON SCALES

THE INSPECTORATE UNIT OF THE MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS OFFERS THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO HELP CONSUMERS AVOID PROBLEMS WITH THE USE OF SCALES BY VENDORS:

• WATCH THE SCALE!

First observe the weighing instrument the vendor is using. It must be in good working order. If it is a dial scale, the indicator must be on zero. Hanging scales should be suspended from a sturdy object. Counter scales should be also set on zero. Monitor the scales to ensure the weight of your purchase is correct.

• WATCH THE VENDOR'S HANDS!

When the vendor places the item in the scale pan and points to the dial face to indicate the weight you are supposedly getting, he may be inducing you to focus on the dial face, not on his hands. The trick here is while this is holding your attention, he may be using his free hand to press down on the scale pan, his intention being that you pay not only for the weight of the item, but also for the weight of his hand! Don't be distracted.



Do not buy from vendors using domestic kitchen scales.

• BEWARE THE 2-FACED SCALE!

Some vendors use scales with dial faces to the front and the back. If it is the hand held type, and the glass on one side is broken, be aware of the trick where the vendor manipulates the indicator on the side with the broken glass to cheat you out of your true weight.

• WATCH OUT FOR SOMETHING FISHY!

When you buy a whole fish, the vendor would often gut and slice it for you. Make sure he wraps it exactly where he slices it. Don't let him toss the slices in a bowl, to be wrapped after he completes the slicing operation. This is because he may very well be tempted to let a slice or two remain in the bowl, since what's in the bowl may not be in your line of sight.

Consumers, if you suspect that a retailer has tampered with the scale or any other measuring instrument, contact the **WEIGHTS & MEASURES INSPECTORATE** at 623-3821 immediately.

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Do not buy from vendors using a tin of milk or any other unauthorized object as a weight.

