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Weights And Measures Law And The Sale Of Fresh Fruit And Vegetables

Introduction

The sale of fresh fruit and vegetables is controlled by weights and measures law. This brief summary is designed to help you to understand these legal requirements.

Must I sell all fresh fruit and vegetables by weight?

As a general rule, all loose fresh fruit and vegetables must be sold by net weight (the weight of the produce without wrapping) - although if the wrapping or container is sufficiently light then the sale may be by gross weight. *A plastic or paper bag (or other container weighing less than 5 g) will probably be sufficiently light for the sale to be by gross weight.*

The weight must be in metric units (kg and/or g) and must be made known to the buyer before payment is made. This may be done either:

- by weighing the goods in front of the customer - the scales must be clearly visible; or
- by giving the customer the weight in writing - perhaps by using a combined weight and price ticket.

What about pre-packing fresh fruit and vegetables?

If you wish to pre-pack fresh fruit and vegetables (make up packages in containers prior to sale), the same basic principle of selling by net weight applies. In addition, you must clearly mark each package with an indication of the net weight.

Are there any exceptions to the general rules?

There are specific rules (including some exemptions from the general requirement to sell by weight) for particular fresh fruits and vegetables, which are detailed below.

Potatoes

Generally, potatoes may be pre-packed only in the following prescribed quantities:

500 g, 750 g, 1 kg, 1.5 kg, 2 kg, 2.5 kg, multiples of 2.5 kg up to and including 15 kg, 20 kg and 25 kg.

Large potatoes (over 175 g each) such as those sold as baking potatoes may, however, be sold by number rather than weight (see *Countable Produce* section below).

Soft fruits and mushrooms

The term soft fruits means: bilberries, blackberries, blackcurrants, boysenberries, brambles, cherries, cranberries, gooseberries, loganberries, mulberries, raspberries, redcurrants, strawberries, tayberries and whitecurrants.

Soft fruits and mushrooms may be sold by net weight or by gross weight (provided the container is within the permitted weight limits).

There is no requirement to mark pre-packs with a weight indication but, in all circumstances, the weight must be made known to the buyer before payment is made. This may be done either:

- by weighing the goods in front of the customer - the scales must be clearly visible;
- by giving the customer the weight in writing - perhaps by using a combined weight and price ticket;
- by stating the weight on a display notice; or
- by marking the weight on the package.

Countable produce

The fruits and vegetables listed below may, if you wish, be sold by number rather than by weight.

Apples, apricots, artichokes (globe), aubergines, avocados, bananas, beetroots (including cooked), cabbage, cauliflower, capsicum, celery, coconuts, corn on the cob, cucumber, fennel, figs (fresh), garlic, grapefruit, guavas, kiwi fruit, kohlrabi, lemons, lettuce, limes, mangoes, marrows, melons, nectarines, onions (other than spring onions), oranges, passion fruit, pawpaw, peaches, pears, pineapple, plums, pomegranates, pomelo, pumpkins, radishes, shaddock, soft citrus fruits, tomatoes and ugli.

If these fruits or vegetables are pre-packed and sold by number then (unless the pack contains not more than eight items which can all be clearly seen by a prospective buyer) the pack must be clearly marked with the number of items.

Vegetables which may be sold by the bunch

The vegetables listed below may, if you wish, be sold by the bunch rather than by weight.

Asparagus, beetroots, carrots, chives, endives, parsley, garlic, mint, mustard and cress, onions (including spring onions), radishes, salad cress, turnips and watercress.

Weighing equipment

All weighing equipment used to weigh or pre-pack fresh fruit and vegetables must be of an approved type and carry an approval mark to show that it has been properly tested.

Weights must be stated in metric units (kg and/or g) although you may, if you wish, also indicate an equivalent imperial weight (provided this is no more prominent than the metric indication).

This is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance.

For a copy of this document on audio cassette, in large print or Braille, or if you require assistance in reading this, please contact the Council's Policy Unit.

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This document is also available at www.shetland.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Do you require the services of an interpreter?

If you do, please contact **01595 744537** for assistance.

We will provide an interpreter, or we can supply the document in your choice of language.

你是否需要傳譯服務？

如果需要，請致電 01595 744537 尋求幫助。

我們會適當地為你安排傳譯人員或者提供你需要文字的文件。

ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪਰੈਟਰ (ਤੁਰਾਜ਼ੀਆ) ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ?

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਲਈ 01595 744537 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

ਜਿਥੇ ਸੰਭਵ ਹੈ ਸਕਿਆ ਇੰਟਰਪਰੈਟਰ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਜਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਸੰਦ ਵਾਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

आपनि कि एकजन दोतषीर साहाय्य चान ?

यदि आपनार प्रयोअन थाके ताहले अनुग्रह करे योगायोग करन -01595 744537 येथाने सभ्ब सेथाने एकजन दोतषीर ब्यवस्था करे हबे अथवा आपनि ये भाषाते च दलीलति अनुवाद करे आपनाके प्रदान करे हबे ।

کیا آپ کو انٹریپرٹری کی ضرورت ہے؟

اگر ایسا ہے تو پھر (انٹریپرٹری) مدد حاصل کرنے کیلئے فون نمبر 01595 744537 پر بات کریں۔

جہاں ممکن ہو اوہاں انٹریپرٹری کی سہولت فراہم کی جائے گی یا پھر (مطلوبہ) دستہ دیز کارتر جمہ آپ کی

پسندیدہ زبان میں فراہم کیا جائے گا۔