



## Module 5.3.1

### Commodities - General

#### Overview and Scope

This module sets standards for basic inspection and testing for checking the net contents of packaged goods. The module is geared toward general and basic concepts that can be applied to all package checking. These concepts include such basics as selecting the point of enforcement; understanding lots, package requirements, and moisture allowances; choosing and applying sampling plans, identifying the jurisdictions of other regulatory agencies responsible for package regulations and requirements; and utilizing good measurement practices including the care and use of standards.

#### Prerequisites

None

#### Learning Objectives

##### 1 When and Where to Use Package Checking Procedures

A weights & measures inspector should understand the principles of when and where to use package checking procedures. To demonstrate that understanding the inspector can:

- 1.1 List the types of products which may be tested.
- 1.2 Describe how marketplace surveys, sales volume surveys, and audits influence decisions on where to concentrate package checking resources.
- 1.3 Decide the appropriate venue for the investigation being conducted:
  - 1.3.1 Point of Pack.
  - 1.3.2 Wholesale.
  - 1.3.3 Retail.

##### 2 Package Requirements

A weights & measures inspector should understand the requirements which apply to inspection lots and to the individual packages within those lots. To demonstrate that understanding the inspector can:

- 2.1 Determine an inspection lot.
- 2.2 Describe the average requirement for the lot.
- 2.3 Describe the individual package requirement.
- 2.4 Determine the maximum allowable variation (MAV) for a package.

- 2.5 Determine and apply the appropriate moisture allowance if applicable.
- 2.6 Describe exceptions to the average and individual package requirements.
  - 2.6.1 For packages labeled by count for 50 or fewer items.
  - 2.6.2 For the capacity of molded glass tumblers and stemware.

### 3 Sampling Plans

A weights & measures inspector should understand the principles and reasons for sampling plans as well as the differences between sampling plans. To demonstrate that understanding the inspector can:

- 3.1 Determine when to use a category B sampling plan, and when to use Category A.
- 3.2 Explain why sampling is used to test packages, why sampling is random, and why statistical corrections are applied to the test results.
- 3.3 State the confidence level is for each sampling category plan.
- 3.4 Use audit tests and other shortcuts appropriately.

### 4 Other Regulatory Agencies Responsible for Package Regulations and Applicable Requirements

A weights & measures inspector should understand the relationships between various agencies with jurisdictions governing package labeling and contents. To demonstrate that understanding the inspector can:

- 4.1 List and describe the various other regulatory agencies, their jurisdictions and authorizing legislation:
  - 4.1.1 US Department of Agriculture.
  - 4.1.2 The Food and Drug Administration.
  - 4.1.3 The Federal Trade Commission.
  - 4.1.4 The Environmental Protection Agency.
  - 4.1.5 The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
  - 4.1.6 State and Local Weights & Measures Agencies.

### 5 Good Measurement Practices

A weights & measures inspector should understand good measurement practices as they relate to test standards and equipment. To demonstrate that understanding the inspector can:

- 5.1 Determine that his/her standards and equipment meet the traceability requirement for measurement standards and test equipment.
- 5.2 Determine that his/her standards and equipment meet the certification requirement for standards and test equipment.

**Contributors:**

5/15/2008 Initial Draft – CWMA (Rachelle Miller, Wisconsin, Chair; 1/12/2011 Revised Draft – Julie Quinn; 1/13/2011 Editorial revision by NCWM PDC -Stacy Carlson, Marin Co, CA; 4/6/2011 Formatting revision numbered option - Ross Andersen