

SPECIFICATIONS FOR TESTING PLATFORM SCALES

The successful bidder will be required to test all platform scales per the attached listing. Require one vendor award for all Regions.

Two testing intervals shall be followed:

- One (1) inspection test shall be performed between **March 15th** and **June 30th**

AND

- One (1) inspection test shall be performed between **July 1st** and **September 30th**

At no time will the two inspection tests be performed within **60** days of the previous test.

REFERENCES

The specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for weighing and measuring devices as recommended by the National Conference on Weights and Measures and published in the *National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 44*, specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for weighing and measuring devices, and supplements thereto or revisions thereof, shall apply to commercial weighing and measuring devices in the state of Tennessee.

Field standard weights used in verifying weighing devices shall comply with requirements of the *National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 105-1* (Class F) or tolerances expressed in the *National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 44*, Appendix A, fundamental considerations associated with the enforcement of Handbook 44 codes, Paragraph 3.2. The weights must also have a current certification accepted by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture prior to being used to test scales under this contract.

PROCEDURE

Within two (2) weeks after the contract has been awarded and prior to start of work, the successful bidder shall submit to the Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor, the Engineering Director, Division of Materials and Tests, for their approval, a schedule by which the vendor proposes to test both the intervals. Upon approval of the schedule, the vendor shall be prepared to commence work within one (1) week, if required by the Department of Transportation.

Prior to checking scales, the displayed value on the scale load indicator shall be recorded with no load applied. If the load indicator records a deviation greater than or equal to 100 pounds, then the scale is considered to be out of tolerance. Before proceeding with the accuracy testing, the scale shall be made to indicate a zero-balance condition. The scale shall then be tested by sections to determine if the sections are within allowable tolerances. If sections are not within the tolerance, testing shall cease. If sections are within the tolerance, an increasing – load test shall be performed. The increasing-load test shall be performed in maximum increments of 5,000 pounds to a minimum of 22,000 pounds of total weight. The load shall then be increased in maximum increments of 5,000 pounds to a minimum of 45,000 pounds of total weight. When a substituted weight (e.g. truck) is needed to complete the full scale of testing, the error, in pounds, from the highest level of certified weight test completed shall be reflected in the “applied” load

value. The remarks shall indicate that such a correction was made. The accuracy shall be considered sufficient if the scale indicator correctly indicates weights within 0.5 percent of the applied loads throughout the range of zero to 45,000 pounds.

The scale tester shall supply a scale test document for each scale tested. The document will contain all pertinent data for the scale being tested (i.e. date, scale owner, location, test weight loadings and the corresponding scale readings, percent error between test loading and scale readings, etc.).

Distribution of the scale test document shall be as follows:

- Two (2) copies to remain at the scale location
- One (1) for the scale owner
- One (1) for TDOT Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor
- One (1) copy retained by vendor

The vendor shall furnish a semi-monthly listing of all scales tested to the Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor.

In the event that a scale tested in a manner prescribed above does not meet the tolerances prescribed herein, the scale testing agency must notify the Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor of the scale failure as soon as possible but no later than the next working day following the scale test. Notification is to be made by a telephone call with proper documentation following by mail. No further action is required by the vendor on these scales until notified by the Department of Transportation that another scale test is necessary.

ADDITIONAL TESTING

In addition to the scheduled tests, the vendor shall provide emergency tests when requested by the Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor. When an emergency scale test is requested, the vendor shall perform the test within twenty-four (24) hours after notification. Emergency tests may be required on weekends and holidays.

Scale tests that are delinquent shall not be considered emergency scale tests; however, the vendor shall perform tests on delinquent scales within twenty-four (24) hours of notification.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation reserves the right to add or delete scales as needed. Provided the number of scales covered by this contract is not increased or decreased by more than fifteen (15) percent per year. The Tennessee Department of Transportation reserves the right to change the scale locations as shown on the attached listing, provided that such changes do not exceed fifteen (15) percent of the total number of scale locations.

ADDITIONAL BIDDER INFORMATION

The vendor shall obtain any permits necessary to properly perform the scale testing. The cost of the permit(s) shall be borne by the vendor.

The state has no agreement with scales operations as to when the scales may be tested without incurring delay. The vendor shall be responsible for scheduling with the Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor by providing proposed routes and schedule of testing dates two (2) weeks prior to the start of testing in a given region. The Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor will review

the schedule and modify as necessary to minimize the visits to scale operations that are not active. The Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor will return the schedule to the vendor within one (1) week of receipt.

In the event that a scale test cannot be performed during the schedule submitted, the vendor shall make a second attempt approved by the Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor. However, if the scale test cannot be performed after the second attempt, the Regional Materials and Tests Supervisor will then pay for the inspection as completed.

The individuals conducting the scale testing for the vendor are prohibited from performing any scale maintenance or calibrations which are required as a result of the scale tests performed under this contract. Any maintenance or calibrations necessary and identified during testing under this contract shall be performed by individuals other than those performing such tests.