

Point of Sale Scales Placement

Last Revision: January 26, 2012

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📄 [NIST Handbook 44](#)
Sec. 1.10 General Code –
G-UR.3.3, G-S.2., Sec.
2.20 Scales – S.1.8.4

Background

At a point of sale location where a commodity not a service is sold, where must the computing counter scale be located?

Handbook 44 refers to the equipment and placement of devices:

G-UR.3.3. Position of Equipment. – A device or system equipped with a primary indicating element and used in direct sales, except for prescription scales, shall be positioned so that its indications may be accurately read and the weighing or measuring operation may be observed from some reasonable “customer” and “operator” position. The permissible distance between the equipment and a reasonable customer and operator position shall be determined in each case upon the basis of the individual circumstances, particularly the size and character of the indicating element. (Amended 1974 and 1998)

G-S.2. Facilitation of Fraud. - All equipment and all mechanisms, software, and devices attached to or used in connection therewith shall be so designed, constructed, assembled, and installed for use such that they do not facilitate the perpetration of fraud. (Amended 2007)

2.20 Scales - S.1.8.4. Customer's Indications. - Weight indications shall be shown on the customer's side of computing scales when these are used for direct sales to retail customers. Computing scales equipped on the operator's side with digital indications, such as the net weight, unit price, or total price, shall be similarly equipped on the customer's side. Unit price displays visible to the customer shall be in terms of single whole units of weight and not in common or decimal fractions of the unit. Scales indicating in metric units may indicate price per 100 g. (Amended 1985 and 1995)

Code Interpretation

There are two criteria that must be met to fulfill G-UR.3.3:

1. The placement of the primary indicating element (digital readout) must be so positioned that it is clearly visible to the consumer from a reasonable location during the weighing transaction.
2. The weighing element (scale platform) **MUST** be in sight of the consumer to prevent the facilitation of fraud.

Effective Date: December 18, 1995