

# Package Checking

## Best Practices

*Effective Date: January 29, 2015*

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 [NIST Handbook 133](#)  
 [ATCP 92.06\(1\)\(b\)](#)

### Question/Issue

Best practices for uniform package testing of store packed and third party packed commodities.

### Procedure

Annual testing of store packed and factory packed commodities at grocery stores:

- Test inspection lots of store packed commodities from every department that packages products (i.e. bakery, deli, meat, produce, etc.).
- Inspection lots of factory packed commodities, where the amount of factory packed test samples at each store should be at least 20% of the total packaged test samples checked annually at the store.
- Use audit testing initially. Audit 10% of store packed product to identify compliance issues. If audit testing indicates potential short weight product, use Handbook 133 enforcement sampling procedures to test and determine if the lot complies with the package requirements. Enforcement action should never be taken based on audit testing results.

Note\* Rejected product should be returned to the manufacturer/distributor. The store can be compensated following the “Paying for packaged commodities opened for testing or seized” policy in this manual.