NIST Handbook

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Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices

*as adopted by the*

*109th National Conference on Weights and Measures*

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In accord with NIST policy, the “meter” and “liter” spellings are used in this document. However, the “metre” and “litre” spellings are acceptable.

It should be noted that a space has been inserted instead of commas in all numerical values having four digits or more in this document. This follows a growing practice, originating in tabular work, to use spaces to separate large numbers into groups of three digits. This avoids conflict with the practice in many countries to use the comma as a decimal marker.

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# Abstract

NIST Handbook 44 includes specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for weighing and measuring devices. These requirements are intended to encourage the design, installation, testing, and use of weighing and measuring devices that provide for accurate, repeatable measurements; facilitate clear and transparent transactions for buyer and seller; and do not facilitate fraud.

NIST Handbook 44 is adopted by many state, local, and some federal weights and measures authorities to apply to commercial weighing and measuring equipment and associated equipment and for use in applications for law enforcement and the collection of statistical information by government agencies.

NIST has a statutory responsibility for “cooperation with the states in securing uniformity of weights and measures laws and methods of inspection” and publishes this and other NIST Handbooks in partial fulfillment of this responsibility. NIST Handbook 44 was first published in 1949, having been preceded by similar handbooks of various designations and in several forms, beginning in 1918; the handbook is now typically published on an annual basis.

This 2025 edition includes amendments made through the Committee on Specifications and Tolerances of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) with technical guidance from the Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and input from weights and measures officials and industry representatives. These amendments were adopted by the NCWM at its 109th Annual Meeting in July 2024.

# Keywords

devices; dry measures; electric vehicle fueling systems; grain analyzers; grain moisture meters; hydrogen gas-measuring devices; liquid-measuring devices; LPG and anhydrous ammonia liquid-measuring; mass flow meters; measure-containers; measuring; measuring systems; meters; multiple dimension measuring devices; odometers; scales; taximeters; timing devices; transportation network measuring systems; vehicle tanks; weighing; weighing systems.

# Foreword

NIST Handbook 44 was first published in 1949, having been preceded by similar handbooks of various designations and in several forms, beginning in 1918.

NIST Handbook 44 is typically published in its entirety each year following the Annual Meeting of the National Council on Weights and Measures (NCWM) formerly the National Conference on Weights and Measures. This handbook includes amendments endorsed by the 109th National Conference on Weights and Measures during its Annual Meetings in 2024.

This handbook conforms to the concept of primary use of SI (metric) measurements recommended in the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 by citing SI units before U.S. customary units where both units appear together and placing separate sections containing requirements in SI units before corresponding sections containing requirements in U.S. customary units. In some cases, however, trade practice is currently restricted to the use of U.S. customary units; therefore, some requirements in this handbook will continue to specify only U.S. customary units until a broad consensus is achieved on the permitted SI units.

In accordance with NIST policy, the meter/liter spellings are used in this document. However, the metre/litre spellings are acceptable and are preferred.

It should be noted that a space has been inserted instead of commas in all numerical values greater than 999 in this document, following a growing practice, originating in tabular work, to use spaces to separate large numbers into groups of three digits. This avoids conflict with the practice in many countries to use the comma as a decimal marker.

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# Main Table of Contents

 **Page**

Abstract i

Foreword ii

Author Contributions ii

Acknowledgments iii

Past Chairs of the Committee iii

2024 Amendments and Editorial Changes vii

**Introduction 1**

**Section 1.**

1.10. General Code 1-1

**Section 2.**

 2.20. Scales 2-3

 2.21. Belt-Conveyor Scale Systems 2-63

 2.22. Automatic Bulk Weighing Systems 2-81

 2.23. Weights 2-91

 2.24. Automatic Weighing Systems 2-99

2.25. Weigh-In-Motion Systems Used for Vehicle Enforcement Screening – Tentative Code 2-119

**Section 3.**

 3.30. Liquid-Measuring Devices 3-3

 3.31. Vehicle-Tank Meters 3-29

 3.32. Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Anhydrous Ammonia Liquid-Measuring Devices 3-45

 3.33. Hydrocarbon Gas Vapor-Measuring Devices 3-63

 3.34. Cryogenic Liquid-Measuring Devices 3-75

 3.35. Milk Meters 3-87

 3.36. Water Meters 3-97

 3.37. Mass Flow Meters 3-107

 3.38. Carbon Dioxide Liquid-Measuring Devices 3-123

 3.39. Hydrogen Gas-Measuring Devices 3-139

 3.40. Electric Vehicle Fueling Systems 3-151

 3.41. Non-Utility Electricity-Measuring Systems – Tentative Code 3-165

**Section 4.**

 4.40. Vehicle Tanks Used as Measures 4-3

 4.41. Liquid Measures 4-9

 4.42. Farm Milk Tanks 4-13

 4.43. Measure-Containers 4-21

 4.44. Graduates 4-27

 4.45. Dry Measures 4-33

 4.46. Berry Baskets and Boxes 4-37

**Section 5.**

 5.50. Fabric-Measuring Devices 5-3

 5.51. Wire- and Cordage-Measuring Devices 5-9

 5.52. Linear Measures 5-15

 5.53. Odometers 5-19

 5.54. Taximeters 5-25

 5.55. Timing Devices 5-39

 5.56.(a) Grain Moisture Meters 5-47

 5.56.(b) Grain Moisture Meters 5-59

**Main Table of Contents (continued)**

 **Page**

 5.57. Near-Infrared Grain Analyzers 5-69

 5.58. Multiple Dimension Measuring Devices 5-79

 5.59. Electronic Livestock, Meat, and Poultry Evaluation Systems and/or Devices 5-93

5.60. Transportation Network Measurement Systems – Tentative Code 5-97

**Appendices**

 A. Fundamental Considerations Associated with the Enforcement of Handbook 44 Codes A-1

 B. Units and Systems of Measurement - Their Origin, Development, and Present Status B-1

 C. General Tables of Units of Measurement C-1

 D. Definitions D-1