

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division

SCALE TOLERANCES FOR DETERMINING NET WEIGHT

Check Weights

Check weights used should be approximately the same weight as the net weight that is being certified. For example, if a container is marked "25 lbs. Net Wt.," a 25 lb. check weight or a combination of check weights weighing a total of 25 lbs. should be used. If an exact weight combination of check weights is not available, a check weight or combination of check weights within 5 lbs. above or below the certifying container weight may be used. Exceptions to this rule must be cleared through DC Operations.

Tolerances

The following tolerances will be used for all digital scales showing 1/100th lb. graduations.

Check Weight/Container Weight	<u>Tolerance</u>
0 to 5 lbs.	+ or01 lb.
+5 to 20 lbs.	+ or02 lb.
+20 to 40 lbs.	+ or03 lb.
Over 40 lbs.	+ or05 lb.

For all non-digital type scales graduated in 1/10 lb. or 1/4 lb. increments, allow one half graduation tolerance. For example, the acceptable range for a non-digital type scale graduated in 1/4 lb. increments when using a 10 lb. check weight would be from one half of the distance from the $9\ 3/4$ lb. to the 10 lb. graduation to one half of the distance from the 10 lb. to the $10\ 1/4$ lb. graduation.

Any scale that does not meet the above tolerances will not be acceptable for use in certifying net weight.