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This leaflet contains a summary of the main requirements of weights and measures legislation enforced by the trading standards service on weighing equipment in use for trade. The controls over such equipment depend on its type of construction and the use to which it is put. This leaflet relates to weighing equipment that determines the final quantity of the goods delivered to the customer. Weighing equipment used during a production process, e.g. to check ingredients or as a check scale for customer use only, are not in use for trade provided there is a further final check over a stamped scale.

All weighing equipment in use for trade must be suitable for its intended purpose and be sufficiently accurate.

Non-automatic weighing equipment:

Non-automatic weighing equipment used must be accurate and approved for trade use.

Non-automatic weighing instruments, i.e. those that require an operator to place and/or remove the items from the scale pan, are either 'passed as fit for use for trade' by an inspector of weights and measures (trading standards officer) or an 'approved verifier' (a person who is officially authorised to carry out the same verification duty of an inspector).

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