November 2004

Manual Gross, Tare, and Net Weight Entries on Scales
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During its 2004 Annual Meeting, the NCWM agreed to amend NIST Handbook 44 Section 2.20. Scales Code paragraphs S.1.12. Manual Gross Weights and UR.3.9. Use of Manual Gross Weight Entries. The amendments recognize manual entry of net weights on items previously weighed on other legal-for-trade scales and deleted the term "Gross" in the title of the paragraphs.

NIST/WMD received a report that some railway scale inspectors have notified users of railroad track scales and manufacturers of separable indicating elements that paragraph S.1.12. would apply to manually entered tare weights on printed tickets. The inspectors apparently believed that the requirement applies to all manually entered weights since the term "Gross" was deleted from the title. Additionally, they believed that Handbook 44 would allow a scale operator to override rail car UMBLER tare weight information without the weights being identified as manual entries. [Note: UMBLER is an acronym for UNIVERSAL MACHINE LANGUAGE EQUIPMENT REGISTER, a computerized file maintained by the Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division and contains specific data on rail cars such as outside and inside dimensions of the rail car, center of gravity of car, number of axles, car capacities, light (tare) weight of car, the most recent date of weighing, and other data for each railroad car (carrier or industry owned) that is used in interchange service.]

This interpretation is not correct. Paragraph S.1.12. does not apply to manual tare weights entries. The language in paragraphs S.1.12. and UR.3.9. only addresses manual gross and net weight entries and does not include any reference to tare.

To eliminate any confusion in how paragraphs S.1.12. and UR.3.9. are intended to be applied, NIST/WMD will editorially amend the language in these paragraphs in the 2005 edition of NIST Handbook 44 to clarify that manual tare weight entries are not required to be identified on printed tickets.