



Office of the Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures
852 Broadway, El Centro CA 92243

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POINT-OF-SALE SCANNERS & ELECTRONIC PRICING DEVICES

The Imperial County Weighing and Measuring Devices and Point-of-Sale Systems ordinance (Chapter 5.68) requires businesses to register with the Imperial County Sealer of Weights and Measures Department and pay an annual registration fee. Registration certificate fees are based on the number of point of sale stations at each retail location. This registration certificate is required in addition to any other certificate, license or permit which may be required by the county, cities, or any public entity. Any registration certificate for which fees have not been paid within forty –five (45) days from the date that such payment is due, will be subject to a twenty percent (20%) penalty. See the attached fee schedule for reference.

All retail locations that utilize a point of sale system are subject to the county ordinance. Such systems include Universal Product Code (UPC) scanners, price look-up codes, or any other system that relies on the retrieval of electronically stored information to complete a transaction. Per the ordinance, all systems shall be available for testing and inspection by the county sealer of weights and measures.

The Imperial County Weights and Measures Office enforces the California Business and Professions Code as well as the California Code of Regulations as it pertains to point-of-sale systems. Below is a summary of applicable code sections:

In accordance to the California Business and Professions Code § 12024.2 and § 12024.6, it is unlawful for any person, at the time of sale of a commodity, to do any of the following:

- Charge an amount greater than the price, or to compute an amount greater than a true extension of a price per unit, that is then advertised, posted, marked, displayed, or quoted for that commodity.
- Charge an amount greater than the lowest price posted on the commodity itself or on a shelf tag that corresponds to the commodity, notwithstanding any limitation of the time period for which the posted price is in effect.

- No person, firm, corporation, or association shall advertise, solicit, or represent by any means, a product for sale or purchase if it is intended to entice a customer into a transaction different from that originally represented.

In accordance to the California Business and Professions Code sections § 13300-13303 and § 12024.6:

- Any business that uses a point-of-sale system must have a display of the prices charged visible to the customer from a reasonable and typical position
- When a price reduction or discount regarding an item is advertised, the checkout system customer indicator shall display either the discounted price for that item, or alternatively, the regular price and a credit or reduction of the advertised savings
- Any surcharges and the total value to be charged for the overall transaction also shall be displayed for the consumer at least once before the consumer is required to pay for the goods or services
- "Point-Of-Sale System" means any computer or electronic price look-up system that retrieves the price of the item being purchased

The Imperial County Sealer of Weights and Measures is authorized to levy a civil penalty against a person violating any provision of this law or regulation adopted pursuant to this law, of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the owner/operator of a business to obtain a current registration from the Sealer's Office before using an electronic point-of-sale checkout system. Our office is open to the public from 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at (442) 265-1500. We will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



Margo Sanchez
Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures
Special Projects Division