




NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Director/Secretary
MSC 3189
New Mexico State University
P.O. Box 30005
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8005
Phone: (575) 646-3007

January 4, 2022

TO: Owners and Operators of Vehicle Scales
FROM: Jeff M. Witte, Director/Secretary 
SUBJECT: Double-Draft Vehicle Weighing (SCS 2022 E-17)

This external policy supersedes SCS 2020 E-17 dated January 2, 2020.

Under authority granted by the Weights and Measures Law (Chapter 57-17-1 through 19, NMSA 1978 Compilation), the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University adopted 21 NMAC 16.2, effective July 1, 1997. 21 NMAC 16.2 establishes that the specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for commercial weighing and measuring devices for the state of New Mexico shall be the same as adopted by the National Conference on Weights and Measures as set forth in *National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44*, as revised.

NIST Handbook 44 prohibits a commercial transaction based on weights determined by double-draft weighing. Section UR.3.3. of *NIST Handbook 44* Scales Code reads as follows:

UR.3.3. Single-Draft Vehicle Weighing. - A vehicle or a coupled vehicle combination shall be commercially weighed on a vehicle scale only as a single draft. That is, the total weight of such a vehicle or combination shall not be determined by adding together the results obtained by separately and not simultaneously weighing each end of such vehicle or individual elements of such coupled combination. However, the weight of:

- (a) a coupled combination may be determined by uncoupling the various elements (tractor, semitrailer, trailer), weighing each unit separately as a single draft, and adding together the results, or
- (b) a vehicle or coupled-vehicle combination may be determined by adding together the weights obtained while all individual elements are resting simultaneously on more than one scale platform.

Note: This paragraph does not apply to highway-law-enforcement scales and scales used for the collection of statistical data.

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Double-draft weighing for commercial purposes is illegal in New Mexico. If you have any questions about this matter, please refer them to:

Roxanne M. Chepsongol, Division Director
Division of Standards and Consumer Services
MSC 3170, P.O. Box 30005
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8005
(575) 646-1616

JMW/rc