

## **GOLD AND OTHER PRECIOUS METAL BUYERS**

The city of Madison Weights and Measures program, under the authority of Madison Ordinance chapter 22, and State chapter 98, inspects scales used in commerce. This inspection includes testing for accuracy and making sure the scales meet other Requirements per NIST Handbook 44.

The requirements for scales used in the buying or selling of precious metals are:

That they be a legal for trade scale marked as class II, and

That they are NTEP (National Type Evaluation Program) approved if purchased After Jan 1 1997. If it is NTEP approved it will have a Certificate of Conformance ( COC ) number , sometimes referred to as an Approval Number on the Model/ Serial no. tag, and

That they meet Handbook 44 Class II tolerance requirements for accuracy.

Another requirement is that the scale be placed so that the customer can read the weight display and observe the weighing operation. Below is the section from Handbook 44 that covers this requirement.

**G-UR.3.3.Position of Equipment.** – A device or system equipped with a primary indicating element and used in direct sales, except for prescription scales, shall be positioned so that its indications may be accurately read and the weighing or measuring operation may be observed from some reasonable “customer” and “operator” position. The permissible distance between the equipment and a reasonable customer and operator position shall be determined in each case upon the basis of the individual circumstances, particularly the size and character of the indicating element. (Amended 1974 and 1998)

The unit of measure for precious metals shall be either Troy weight or SI units (grams). When the weight is expressed in grams you must have a conversion chart to Troy weight displayed for the customer. See page 2 for an example of a conversion chart and the excerpt from Handbook 130 that covers this.

If you have any questions you can contact City of Madison Weights and Measures Inspectors at (608) 243-0585, 246-4514 or 246-4515. Copies of City of Madison ordinance chapter 22, and State chapter 98 are available at [www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com) NIST Handbook 44 and 130 are available at [www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov)