



Weighing & Weight Conversion Procedures

Background

Hawaii's Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) Recycling Program is intended to provide consumers the opportunity to return beverage containers conveniently, efficiently, and economically. In order to accomplish this, the law allows certified redemption centers to weigh large loads of beverage containers to expedite the redemption process. To create a weight-based returns system, the Department of Health establishes separate minimum reimbursement rates for each material type, for example \$1.57 per pound for aluminum. Consumers are allowed by regulation to request to be paid by count for up to 200 empty beverage containers.

Common Weighing & Weight Conversion Mistakes

- Using inappropriate scales to weigh DBC
Solution: Refer to the National Institute of Standards and Technology handbook 44 regarding appropriate scale usage.
- Scale instability
Solution: Position the scale on a firm, level surface and check the scale frequently to assure it stays level. Most electronic scales have a bubble level and adjustable feet. These scales must be checked for level every time they are moved or repositioned.
- Inaccurate tare weights
Solution: Frequently weigh the container used to hold beverage containers on the scale for accurate tare weight or tare the scale for each transaction, if possible.
- Inaccurate payments due to unnecessary rounding
Solution: The final payment amount can be rounded up to the nearest nickel. No other rounding should be done during the weight conversion process. Weights should not be rounded. Payment amounts for each material type should not be rounded. Decimal places should not be dropped.

Compliance

If a consumer is paid less than the total amount required based on improper weighing or is paid less than the posted amount per pound or per container, the redemption center may be out of compliance with Department of Health regulations. Our primary goal is to increase consumer confidence and increase participation in the deposit beverage container recycling program.

* Please note that all scales must be approved, tested and sealed in accordance with Department of Agriculture regulations.