



**Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator
Request for support**



PERU

Core Problem:

Unsafe market - Participation of private enterprises in Legal Metrology

For over ten years, the Peruvian Government left Metrological control to Peruvian markets and stores.

The owners and/or users of these scales are not responsible for obtaining certification or controlling these instruments. However, they are responsible for maintaining them in optimal condition. In fact, it is the Peruvian State which is responsible for controlling the scales but which does not have enough resources to do so. This is the reason why private sector participation is sought.

This problem affects consumers because they cannot be sure that scales show the right weight.

Significance of the problem:

Peru has an estimated population of twenty five million people. Lima, its capital city, concentrates nearly one third of the country's population. In Metropolitan Lima alone, there are nearly 600 markets and 62 000 commercial establishments, which implies there are nearly 100 000 scales.

Since 1993, within the liberalization process of the economy and the privatization of public services, the State did not monopolize metrological control services for scales; instead it authorized private companies to offer this service requiring them only to calibrate periodically their main weights.

Unfortunately, these companies are not technically competent, nor do they calibrate their weights periodically.

In 2003, Law 27972 "Municipalities' Organic Law" was published. This Law establishes the control of weights and measures as one of the functions of Municipalities.

Municipalities do not have trained personnel, nor the equipment necessary to attend to this task. Nevertheless there is a risk that this function be used in order to increase their income.

Finally, consumers will continue unprotected and traders might be surprised.

What is needed:

Under this new legislation, our proposal is that private companies, duly authorized by INDECOPI (National Metrology Service), attend to the metrological control of scales.

Interested companies would have to demonstrate the technical competence of their staff, have adequately calibrated equipment and documented procedures.

Within a framework of free competition, authorized companies would offer their scale verification services to owners and/or users of the scales so they may choose a supplier of the service based on costs, opportunity and trust.

Municipalities will ensure that scales are certified and have a label (sticker) from one of the authorized companies. If necessary they will apply sanctions in the form of fines or seizure.

To apply this proposal it is necessary to:

- Receive technical assistance from experts who have implemented similar systems in which the private sector has been involved;
- Design information strategies so that traders and consumers are familiarized with this new system;
- Train municipalities' staff and traders;
- Develop Peruvian procedures to control scales' calibration.

Contributions:

The National Metrology Service, INDECOPI, has technical personnel and Metrology Laboratories that may work jointly with international experts to implement a solution to this problem.

Whom to address:

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