



County of San Diego

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AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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TAXIMETER INSPECTIONS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ✓ **Why are taximeters inspected?** The mission of the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures is to support a fair marketplace and consumer confidence in the accuracy of product weight, measure and price. We strive to create equity for both consumers and businesses alike. Your meter along with other commercial devices is inspected annually to create a level playing field. The annual device registration you pay covers a portion of the cost of the Weights and Measures program.
- ✓ **How do I prepare for the meter inspection?** The taxi owner is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the meter being used. A licensed service agent can verify the accuracy of the meter as part of the regular maintenance, especially after changing tires or having transmission work done. Also, check your tires for proper inflation (tire pressure) prior to your inspection. There are taxi companies that provide preventative maintenance meter inspections to their drivers. You may also use one of our one-mile courses to verify the accuracy of your meter using the provided maps.
- ✓ **What can cause a meter to be inaccurate?** Some possible causes include: tires not maintained with proper air pressure, incorrect tire size, or any work or modifications to the transmission or differential.
- ✓ **What should I expect during my inspection?** A County Weights and Measures inspector will verify that all required rate information is clear and visible to passengers. Next, the inspector will test the timing function on the meter for accuracy and check the security wire seal on the meter to ensure it is intact. Last, the inspector will test the distance function of the meter using a measured mile road course. If the meter passes inspection, the inspector will place a Weights and Measures seal on the meter and provide the inspection report.
- ✓ **What if the meter does not pass?** The inspector will explain the violation and issue a Notice of Violation documenting the failed inspection. If the meter is found to be in favor of the owner (over-registration), the meter will be removed from service, "red tagged" and cannot be used until repaired by a licensed service agent. Over-registration means that the meter registers a greater distance than was actually traveled and results in the customer being overcharged. The tolerance for over-registration is 1%, or 52 feet. If the meter is found to be in favor of the customer (under-registration), will not result in a fine, but must be repaired within 30 days by a licensed service agent. Under-registration means that the meter registers a shorter distance than what was actually traveled and the meter owner loses money. The tolerance for under-registration is 4% + 100 feet, or 308 feet.

- ✓ **What should I do if I receive a Notice of Violation?** When you receive a Notice of Violation, read the entire notice carefully and discuss any questions or concerns you have about the violation with the inspector. Notify the registered owner of the meter immediately.

- ✓ **What happens after I have receive a Notice of Violation?** The vehicle must be taken to a licensed service agent for repair and/or calibration. You will need to contact a County Weights and Measures Inspector for a re-inspection of the meter within 30 days. A violation of over-registration may result in a fine to the owner.

- ✓ **Who can I call for questions or to get information regarding laws and regulations?** Call our Weights and Measures Program at (858) 694-2778 and ask to speak with an inspector or supervisor.