

Guidance on bag weight 2006

Introduction - Weights and Measures Regulations 2006

The Weights and Measures (Packaged Goods) Regulations 2006¹ mean that bags of cement will be marked with a *nominal* quantity, and it is the cement packers' responsibility to ensure that:

- a) the actual contents of the bags shall not be less, on average, than the nominal quantity;
- b) the proportion of the bags short of the stated quantity by a defined amount (the “tolerable negative error” or TNE) should be less than a specified level; and
- c) no bag shall be short by more than twice the TNE.

For nominal quantities from 15 kg to 25 kg the TNE is set at 1% of the nominal quantity. As stated in the Regulations and Guidance², compliance with the above requirements, known as the three packers’ rules, will, where necessary, be determined by appropriate tests including the reference test. However, the duty of packers or importers is to pack to, and maintain sufficient records to show that bags meet the rules rather than just pass a test.

MPA Cement Guidance

All plants

MPA Cement's member companies aim to pack in predetermined constant nominal quantities to meet the requirements of The Weights and Measures (Packaged Goods) Regulations 2006; they will mark bags with the nominal quantity, for example ‘Contents 25 kg’.

Plants with automated in-line checkweighers and bag rejection

For packing plant with automated in-line checkweighers and underweight bag rejection equipment MPA Cement's Member Companies work to a standard deviation calculated from at least 50 measurements per standard production period to set the target weight and set the reject weight at 2 x TNE below the nominal weight. As a minimum the average weight, minimum weight and standard deviation of the measurements should be recorded daily.

Plants without automated in-line checkweighers

For packing plant where the bag weight has to be manually sampled, MPA Cement's Member Companies take a minimum of 8 bag weight measurements per 8 hour production period, or

¹ Statutory Instruments 2006 No. 659 Weights and Measures. The Weights and Measures (Packaged Goods) Regulations 2006.

² BIS/DTI Weights and Measures. The Weights and Measures (Packaged Goods) Regulations 2006 - Guidance Note. 6 April 2006.

pro rata. As a minimum the average weight and minimum weight of the measurements are recorded daily and the standard deviation should be recorded weekly.

Where can I find out more?

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