

For a complete list of items included and excluded from the definition of meat to be sold by weight, see regulation 1.5 of the National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009.

MEASURING MEAT IN FRONT OF CUSTOMERS

If you are selling meat which is measured in front of customers, then the customer must have an unobstructed view of the measuring process including the readings on your measuring instruments.

MEAT ORDERS

When an order of meat, other than that weighed while the customer is present, is delivered to the customer it must be accompanied by a clear, written statement of the weight of each cut on which the purchase price is based.

The statement of weight can be written on the outside of the package or on an invoice or label accompanying it.

PRE-PACKED MEAT

This is meat packed before it is offered for sale. It can be packed in bags, trays or any other kind of packaging.

All pre-packed meat must be marked with the correct net weight and price per kilogram.

The marked weight cannot include the weight of any packaging.

For more information see our **Guide to the sale of pre-packaged goods**.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

If you are selling meat by weight, you are responsible for the accuracy of your measuring instruments.

The instruments must:

- be of a type approved by the NMI and legal for trade use
- be verified as accurate by a servicing licensee before they are used
- register zero before they are used
- be properly installed and appropriate for the intended use
- be used correctly by staff who have had adequate training in their correct use.

For more on approved measuring instruments, verification and servicing licensees see the NMI website.

REGULATING THE SALE OF MEAT

The NMI employs inspectors throughout Australia. The role of inspectors is to:

- ensure that all measuring instruments used for trade are verified and used correctly
- monitor the verification activities of servicing licensees
- check prepackages for correct packer identification, measurement markings and accurate measure
- investigate complaints and resolve problems with trade measurement matters
- issue infringement notices or take prosecution action where there have been breaches of the laws.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

If you are selling meat, you should check the health and safety regulations in your state, territory or council area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

See the NMI website
www.measurement.gov.au/trademeasurement

The main laws covering trade measurement in Australia are the *National Measurement Act 1960* and the National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009.


See regulation 5.1 for classifications of various types of meat and how it must be sold.


For offences and penalties regarding the use of measuring instruments for trade and shortfall provisions, see the following sections of the Act:


- Section 18HC – Certain articles must be sold by measurement
- Section 18GA – Measuring instruments used for trade to be verified
- Section 18GD – Inaccurate use of measuring instruments
- Section 18KD – Shortfall offence.

Trade Measurement – it all adds up!

CONTACTS

 Bradfield Road, Lindfield, NSW 2070
PO Box 264, Lindfield, NSW 2070

 Telephone: 1300 686 664
Facsimile: (61 2) 8467 3715

 Email: infotm@measurement.gov.au

www.measurement.gov.au

The purpose of this publication is to provide you with general information only and should not be relied upon for any legal, business or personal purpose. Nothing in this publication shall be taken in any way to replace the provisions of the *National Measurement Act 1960* (Cth), the National Trade Measurement Regulations 2009 (Cth) and any other legislative instruments made pursuant to the *National Measurement Act 1960*.



GUIDE TO THE SALE OF MEAT AND SEAFOOD



Australian Government
National Measurement Institute
Trade Measurement

GUIDE TO THE SALE OF MEAT AND SEAFOOD

TRADE MEASUREMENT

The National Measurement Institute (NMI) is Australia's peak measurement organisation, a division of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research in the Australian Government.

The NMI is responsible for maintaining the primary standards of measurement and providing the legal and technical framework for the dissemination of measurement standards.

The trade measurement laws administered by the NMI cover:

- the definition of the legal units of measurement
- the use of measuring instruments for trade
- testing and verification of these measuring instruments
- transactions by measurement
- pre-packed articles (or prepackages)
- licensing of the businesses that verify trade measuring instruments (these are known as servicing licensees)
- licensing of public weighbridges.



SELLING MEAT

The law requires that suppliers such as butchers, supermarkets, fishmongers and poultry retailers sell most types of meat, fish and poultry by weight, rather than charging a set price for individual items.

This allows customers to compare prices (value) and therefore make informed choices.

WHAT IS MEAT?

Meat is any part of an animal that is sold for human consumption. It includes any attached bone or bone marrow, connective tissue, fat, rind, nerves, blood or skin.

Meat must be sold by net weight, that is excluding the weight of any packaging, labels, wrapping or soaker pads.

However meat that has had its character substantially changed is no longer considered meat for the purposes of the legislation and does not have to be sold by weight.

MEAT THAT MUST BE SOLD BY WEIGHT

The following items are defined as meat and therefore must be sold by net weight:

- amphibians such as frogs
- birds including chicken, duck, emu, geese, guineafowl, ostrich, pheasant, quail, squab and turkey
- buffalo
- camel
- cattle
- deer
- donkey
- fish (but **not** shellfish – see below)
- goat

- hare
- horse
- kangaroo and wallaby
- offal such as cheek, liver, spleen, tail, tongue and tripe (but **not** other offal – see below)
- pig
- reptiles including crocodile
- sheep.

Processed meat

Meat that has been processed is still classed as meat and therefore must be sold by net weight. This includes meat processed by:

- adding of preservatives, colourings or flavours
- boning
- cooking (except where it is sold to the customer on the premises where it is cooked)
- crumbing
- curing
- dicing
- drying
- forming
- freezing
- glazing
- marinading
- mincing
- pickling
- salting
- seasoning

- shredding
- slicing
- smoking
- tenderising.

MEAT THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SOLD BY WEIGHT

These items are not classed as meat by the trade measurement legislation so do **not** have to be sold by weight:

- rabbit
- offal such as brains, feet, heads, hearts, kidneys, lungs and sweetbread
- molluscs (eg mussels, oysters octopus, scallops and squid)
- crustaceans (eg crabs, lobsters, prawns and shrimps).

Meat that has been cooked on the premises where it is sold to the customer is exempt from sale by weight.

No longer meat

Meat subjected to some processes is considered to have had its character substantially changed and so is no longer 'meat'. Meat subjected to the following does **not** have to be sold by weight:

- blending (eg hamburgers, pastrami, sausages)
- combining (eg shish kebab, stir fry)
- fermenting (eg salami)
- filling (eg chicken kiev)
- reconstituting (eg chicken nuggets, devon)
- stuffing in poultry.