

8.2.8. Finished Product Bag Check Weighing.

Standard

Are there defined finished product weighing tolerances and are these monitored?

Bag check weighing needs to ensure correct nett weights achieved. Refer [NMI Guidelines on Check Weighing Products](#).

Purpose

To ensure a process for defining and monitoring bag check weighing is implemented.

Reason

Correct finished product weight is essential for ensuring each bag contains the correct amount as specified on the label. The quality control step assists in maintaining compliance with NMI guidelines, maintain product integrity and consumer trust.

The operator has a regulatory responsibility to ensure on-site weighing instruments operate within the limits permitted under the *National Measurement Act 1960*.

What is Acceptable?

The monitoring process is a continuous cycle that should be implemented across the entire production process.

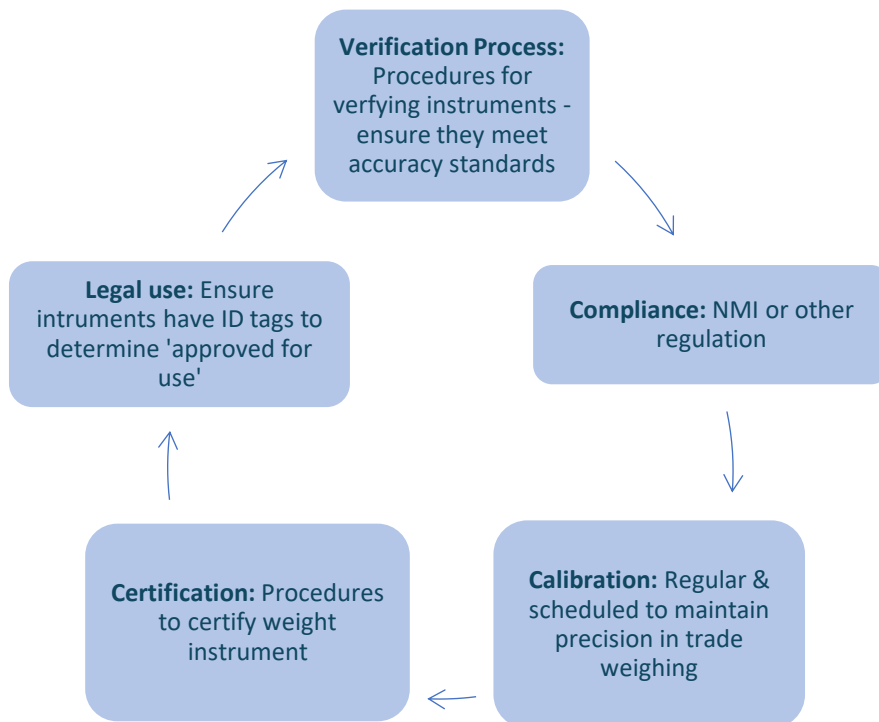


Figure 1. Guideline monitoring diagram of finished product bag check weighing.

Once instruments are approved through a monitoring process, controls must be established to monitor the weighing tolerance of finished product. Operators shall consider the following:

Finished Product & Target Weight

Operators shall set target weight for each finished product. The upper tolerance limit shall be the maximum weight the product can have without exceeding the declared weight. The lowest tolerance limit is the acceptable weight range, taking into consideration the Maximum Permissible Error (MPE).

National Measurement Institute Guidelines

NMI may be used to provide certificates of approval stating a weighing instrument is suitable for use (Based on National Measurement Act 1960). NMI also provides a list of National Instrument Test Procedures (NITPs).

Procedures to Monitor Weight

Regular testing and sampling shall be conducted during the production process to ensure the average weight complies with the declared weight. This could be through taking 3-5 finished product bags off the production line per batch and doing a check weigh on a separate calibrated scale, writing the results on the batch record or a separate log.

Data should be collected to determine Average Quantity Control (ACQ). The method will verify the mean weight of the product across the sampled packages.

Procedures should take into consideration any MPE specified by NMI and use weighing scales in compliance with NMI standards.

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