

PRAIRIE SCALE SYSTEMS, INC.

Date: March 27, 2014

To: Patrick Fahn - Director
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Julie Quinn – Director
Minnesota Weights & Measures Division
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Subject: Pit-Less Truck Scale Foundations and Installations; Weights and Measures Involvement

We have seen a growing interest in the installation and use of pit-less truck scales in our region. This interest has spurred from many different avenues but has been primarily driven by installation cost. Along with the growing interest of these scales, we have also seen many out-of-state companies come to the area and sell these types of scales.

In recent years, we have been losing sales of legal-for-trade pit-less truck scales to these outside companies (and local companies). Unfortunately, we have noticed that a few of these companies are cutting corners in the design and construction of their concrete foundations. We have seen many pit-less truck scale foundations that have no or little regard for the local Weights and Measures rules and requirements. A few of these requirements include: below frost line pier installation requirements, clearance requirements, and approach requirements.

As of today, we have not seen nor heard of any disciplinary action for this type of work. Unfortunately, we continue to see these companies complete their work with no or little regard to the local rules and requirements. This has been very difficult to understand and has left us to question if the out-of-state companies have to follow the same rules the regulations that the local companies have to follow? Or if a variance is being granted, is it granted due to continued negligence? Or can these companies sell, construct, and install scales in a legal-for-trade application however they seem fit with no disciplinary consequences?

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We ask that both the North Dakota and Minnesota Weights and Measures, please provide any input on what is being done or what can be done to ensure that the local rules and regulations are being followed. As a local scale company, we take pride in selling quality products with quality foundations under the local Weights and Measures jurisdiction. Our goal is to provide the customer with a weighing system that will continue to function accurately into the distant future.

This unfortunate type of business practice has created a very uneven playing field and put a very heavy burden on the honest local companies who follow such rules. Your input and cooperation with this manner will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you for further discussion.

Thank you,

Cooper Anderson

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