NTEP Legal for Trade Scales

An NTEP scale is a weighing device that holds a National Type Evaluation Program Certificate of Conformance, meaning its design was tested against NIST Handbook 44 and is approved for commercial use. Any scale whose reading determines the money a customer pays must be NTEP-certified and sealed by the state weights-and-measures authority.

Where NTEP is required

Application	Typical capacity	Typical readability	Notes
Deli, butcher, produce, farm stand	30–60 lb	0.01 lb	Class III price computing, sealed
Selling by weight — scrap, metals	1,000–20,000 lb	0.5–10 lb	Class III crane or floor scale
Freight billed by weight	2,500–10,000 lb	1–2 lb	Class III floor scale + approved indicator
Gold, jewelry, gemstones	100–600 g	0.001–0.01 g	Class II legal for trade

Certification and compliance

- Authorized A&D Weighing dealer. Sold as an authorized dealer since 1998, so every unit carries the full manufacturer warranty and factory firmware — not grey-market stock.
- NIST-traceable calibration certificate. Any instrument can ship with a calibration certificate produced in our Cypress, Texas lab using mass standards traceable to NIST, with as-found and as-left values recorded.
- NTEP legal-for-trade options. Models in this category are available with an NTEP Certificate of Conformance evaluated against NIST Handbook 44, ready for sealing by your state weights-and-measures authority.
- ASTM E617 / OIML R111 test weights. Verification weights are supplied in ASTM Class 1–6 or OIML E2–M3 tolerances, sized so the standard's tolerance stays inside one third of the scale's smallest division.
- In-house repair & on-site service. Factory-trained technicians repair, adjust and re-certify weighing equipment in our own Texas workshop and on-site across the Houston metro.

Specification checklist

- Class before capacity. Class III for commerce by weight; Class II for precious metals and lab-grade trade.
- Certificate of Conformance number. Ask for the CC number and confirm it covers the exact base + indicator pair.
- Sealing. Budget for state or licensed-agency inspection at installation; without the seal, the scale is not legal.
- Division count. More divisions is not always better — the certificate defines the maximum permitted for the class.
- Ongoing verification. Most jurisdictions require an annual inspection to keep the seal valid.

Frequently asked questions

What does NTEP certified mean?

It means the scale model passed National Type Evaluation Program testing against NIST Handbook 44 and holds a Certificate of Conformance permitting its use in commercial transactions.

Do I need an NTEP scale?

You need one whenever the weight determines a price paid or received — retail sales by weight, buying scrap, billing freight by weight. Internal process control, inventory and shipping-cost verification do not require it.

What is the difference between Class II and Class III scales?

Class III covers general commercial weighing at 1,200–10,000 divisions. Class II covers precious metals, gems and laboratory trade at up to 100,000 divisions and much finer readability.

Does an NTEP scale need to be sealed?

Yes. Certification approves the design; the installed unit still has to be tested and sealed by the state weights-and-measures office or a licensed service agency before commercial use.

Terminology

Accuracy	How close a displayed weight is to the sample's true mass. Accuracy is limited by readability, repeatability and linearity together, so a scale can never be more accurate than its specification sheet's worst of those three figures.
ASTM E617	The American standard that defines tolerance classes for mass standards. Class 1 weights are the tightest commonly used for laboratory balances, Class 2 for 0.01 g balances, and Classes 4 and 6 for industrial platform and crane scales.
Legal for trade	A device certified and sealed for use in commercial transactions where weight determines price. In the United States this requires an NTEP Certificate of Conformance and a seal from the state or local weights-and-measures authority.
NIST Handbook 44	The United States specification, tolerance and technical requirement document for commercial weighing and measuring devices. NTEP evaluates devices against it.
NTEP	The National Type Evaluation Program, run by NCWM, which tests weighing devices against NIST Handbook 44 and issues a Certificate of Conformance with an accuracy class. Required for legal-for-trade use.
NTEP accuracy class	The class assigned to a certified device: Class I and II for laboratory, analytical and jewelry work, Class III for retail and general commercial weighing, and Class IIII for coarse industrial use.
OIML R76 / R111	The international recommendations for non-automatic weighing instruments (R76) and for weights of classes E1 to M3 (R111). They are the international counterparts to NIST Handbook 44 and ASTM E617.
Verification	Applying a certified test weight and recording the reading without adjusting the instrument. This is the record an auditor asks for, and it is not the same as calibration.

EK1200i.com — authorized A&D Weighing dealer since 1998. Calibration, repair and application support from Cypress, Texas.
Call 832-290-3120 · info@mnmscales.com · https://ek1200i.com/ntep-scales