



Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

Governor Steve Bullock
Commissioner Pam Bucy

Weights & Measures Bureau

June 10, 2013

TO: One Stop Program Meter Licensees:

The Weights and Measures Bureau with the Department of Labor and Industry is providing this advance notice that we will be proposing Administrative Rules to increase meter license fees. You will receive the official notice of the proposed rules in the next few weeks and it will provide instructions if you wish to provide written comments or comment at the public hearing.

The Bureau was recently granted a fee increase of approximately 25 percent for scale license fees, effective July 1, 2013, in House Bill 591 in the 2013 legislative session. Governor Bullock signed HB 591 into law on April 30, 2013. The scale fee increase will provide an additional \$122,000 of revenue each year. But, scales pay for only about half of our costs. In order to keep fees commensurate with inspection costs the Bureau must also increase meter license fees which are set in Administrative Rule. The average meter fee will increase about 26 percent and provide an additional \$127,000 in revenue each year. The fees for meters were first established in rule in 1993 and increased 11 percent in May of 2000 and 25 percent in October of 2006.

The fee increase amounts were determined in February during the 2013 legislative session and were based on fiscal year 2007 and 2012 budgets. Some of the larger budget expenditures that have increased are as follows: 30 percent for personal services (includes all benefits); 42 percent for fuel, 23 percent for in-state lodging; and 28 percent for rent. The fee increases will provide approximately \$250,000 and will allow the Bureau to fill two vacant positions and replace old and worn out equipment. Without a meter fee increase, the Bureau will not be able to test the meters that we are statutorily required to test.

While the number of meters has continued to increase every year, no additional FTE or staff is being requested and the Bureau will continue to operate with the same number of staff it has had since the mid 1990's.

Below are the current and the proposed fees.

Meter Designation	Capacity	Old Fee	Proposed Fee
PA	Fuel meter 20 gpm or less	\$21	\$27
PB	Fuel meter 20 gpm to 130 gpm	\$70	\$88
PC	Fuel meter over 130 gpm	\$83	\$104
PD	LPG Meter	\$102	\$128

Please feel free to contact our office at (406)443-8065 or email clarkin@mt.gov, if you have any questions.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BUREAU

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