

Frozen Seafood



Common Concerns

Individually quick frozen (IQF) items such as shrimp, scallops, lobster tails, and fish fillets have an ice coating to protect and preserve them. This ice coating is considered packaging and should be deducted as tare when determining net weight.

Deli Sales

The following are considered tare and must be deducted when calculating the net weight.

- Cups or containers
- Pieces of paper between slices of meat or cheese
- Styrofoam trays or plastic bags; and
- Other packaging material

Bulk coffee, grains, spices, and other dry goods displayed in bulk bins

Common Concerns

When a customer buys more than one bag of coffee, be sure the tare is deducted for each bag of coffee.



Bulk Spices and Herbs

The Department of Agriculture recommends, in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 44, that when using the traditional 0.01 pound scale, nothing weighing less than 0.20 pounds be weighed on that scale.

Contact:

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Weights and Measures

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<http://agr.wa.gov/Inspection/WeightsMeasures/default.asp>
12/2007

Pricing & Net Weight

What you need to know about net weight

During the holidays, there is a surge in bulk candy sales and we want to remind retailers that all sales must be computed using net weight.

Retailers that sell bulk frozen seafood and other foods that the retailer is packaging, cannot include the tare weight in the price.

Washington State
Department of Agriculture

RCW 19.94.340 Sale of Commodities

In summary, commodities not in liquid form shall be sold only by (*net*) weight.

Read the entire RCW 19.94.340 at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=19.94.340>.

RCW 19.94.010 Definitions

“**Net Weight**” means the weight of a commodity excluding any materials, substances, or items not considered to be part of such commodity.

Materials, substances, or items not considered to be part of a commodity shall include, but are not limited to, containers, conveyances, bags, wrappers, packing materials, labels, individual piece coverings, decorative accompaniments, and coupons.

What is Tare?

Packaging is considered tare and should not be included in the net weight used to calculate the sale price.

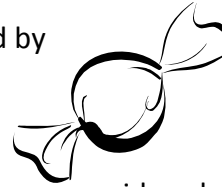
Retailers are responsible for ensuring their store is taking the appropriate deduction of tare on products.

Bulk Candy



Common Concerns

Bulk candies must be sold by net weight.



Any packaging or individual piece coverings are considered tare and should not be included in the net weight. Examples of piece coverings are listed below.

- Small boxed candy
- Sticks on suckers
- Foil wrapping
- Cellophane wrapping and
- Waxed paper



Packaging



Common Concerns

For the meat package above, the styrofoam, cellophane, soaker pad and label must be deducted when calculating net weight.

Items such as olives, feta cheese, and tofu are sold in a protective brine that is not considered part of the product. These types of items are sold by net drained weight.

