

SIND ACT NO. XX OF 1975

THE SIND STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ENFORCEMENT ACT, 1975

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[30th December, 1975]

An Act to provide for the enforcement of standard weights and measures in the Province of Sind and matters connected therewith.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the enforcement of standard weights and measures in the Province of Sind and matters connected therewith. **Preamble.**

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

CHAPTER I **Preliminary**

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sind Standard Weights and Measures Enforcement Act, 1975. **Short title and commencement.**
- (2) It shall come into force on such date as Government may, by notification, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for enforcing different provisions of this Act for different areas, or in respect of different classes of undertakings, or goods.
- (3) Government may, by notification, exempt any person or class of persons, area, undertakings, goods or class of undertaking or goods from operation of all or any of the provisions of this Act for such period and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the notification.
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-- **Definitions.**
- (a) "commercial weight or measure" means a weight or measure used in a transaction for trade or commerce;
- (b) "Controller" means the Controller of Weights and Measures and includes Additional Controller, Deputy Controller and Assistant Controller appointed under section 19;
- (c) "Director" means the Director of Labour, Sind, or such other officer as may be appointed by Government to be Director;
- (d) "Government" means the Government of Sind;

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- (e) "Inspector" means an Inspector of Weights and Measures and includes an Assistant Inspector of Weights and Measures appointed under section 19;
- (f) "measuring instrument" includes an instrument used for measuring area, capacity, energy, length, or volume;
- (g) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (h) "reference standards" means reference standards as defined under the Weights and Measures (International System) Act, 1967;
- (i) "secondary standards" means the sets of weights and measures prepared under section 4;
- (j) "standard weight or measures" means any unit of mass or measure under section 8 of the Weights and Measures (International System) Act, 1967;
- (k) "stamping" means marking which may, as far as practicable, be indelible, and includes casting, engraving, etching and branding;
- (l) "trade" includes any dealing, or contract not being dealing or contract in respect of land;
- (m) "verification or re-verification" with its grammatical variations, means and includes the process of comparing, checking or testing weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument;
- (n) "weighting instrument" means any instrument for weighing and includes scales with the weights pertaining thereto, scale-beams, balances, spring balances, steel yards and other weighing machines;
- (o) "working standard" means the sets of weights and measures prepared under section 3.

CHAPTER II

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Standard Weights and Measures.

3. (1) For the purpose of verifying the correctness of commercial weights and measures and weighing and measuring instruments used in transaction for trade or commerce. Government may cause to be prepared as many sets of standard weights and measures including special sets of standard weights and measures for bullion and other precious stones, as it may deem necessary, and such sets shall be called the working standards. **Working standard.**
- (2) The working standards shall be made of such material, and of such designs and specifications, and shall be prepared, stamped and authenticated in such manner and by such person, agency or authority, as may be prescribed.
- (3) The working standards shall be kept at such places, in such custody and in such manner, as may be prescribed.
- (4) A working standard shall be verified with the secondary standard and verification shall be marked by such persons, in such manner and at such places, and after such intervals, as may be prescribed:
- Provided that working standard for bullion and precious stones shall be verified with the reference standard.
- (5) A working standard which is not verified and marked under sub-section (4) shall not be used for purposes of this Act.
- (6) A working standard which has become defective shall cease to have legal force and shall not be used for the purposes of this Act, until it has been verified and marked under sub-section (4).
4. (1) For the purpose of verifying the correctness of the working standards, Government may cause to be prepared as many sets of secondary standards as it may **Secondary standards.**

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deem necessary.

(2) The secondary standards shall be made of such material, and of such designs and specifications, as may be prescribed, and shall be stamped and authenticated by such person or authority, as Government may direct.

(3) The secondary standards shall be kept at such places, in such custody, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(4) A secondary standards shall be verified with the reference standards at least once in every five years, and the verification shall be marked by such person or authority and in such manner and at such places as may be prescribed.

(5) A secondary standard which is not verified and marked under sub-section (4) shall not be used for the purposes of this Act.

5. The reference standards shall be kept at such places, in such custody, and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

Reference standards.

6. (1) For the purpose of verifying the correctness of commercial weights and measures and weighing and measuring instruments used in transactions for trade or commerce, Government may cause to be prepared as

Standards weighing and measuring instruments.

many sets of weighing and measuring instruments as it may deem necessary and such sets shall be called working instruments.

(2) The working instruments shall be of such kind, and shall be verified and stamped in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(3) The working instruments shall be kept at all such places where secondary standards or working standards are kept.

7. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, no unit of mass or measure, other than the standard

Prohibition of use of weights and measures other than

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weight or measure, shall be used in any transaction of trade or commerce, or in any dealing or contract, or for doing any work or selling or delivering any goods, or in other under-takings.

standard weights and measures.

(2) No person shall, demand or receive, cause to be demanded or received, any quantity of goods or commodity in excess of, or less than, the quantity fixed by the contract or dealing in respect of such goods or commodity and determined in terms of a standard weight or measure.

(3) Any transaction, dealing or contract made or had shall, after the expiry of three months from the commencement of this section be void, in so far it contravenes the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2).

8. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, Government may, by notification, direct that in any specified trade or class of trades, no transaction, dealing or contract shall be made or had, except only by weight or by measure.

Power to prescribe use of weights only or measures only, in certain cases.

(2) A notification issued under this section shall take effect in such area and from such date, and subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in such notification.

CHAPTER III

Verification and Stamping of Weights and Measures.

9. Every weight or measure manufactured for use as a commercial weight or measure shall bear the denomination of the weight or measure which it purports to be marked legibly on it, in such manner as may be prescribed.

Marking of denominations on commercial weights and measures.

10. No commercial weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument shall be sold or delivered, unless it has been verified or re-verified and stamped in the prescribed manner.

Prohibition of sale of unstamped commercial weights and measures.

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11. No weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument shall be used in any transaction of trade or commerce, unless it has been verified or re-verified and stamped in the prescribed manner. **Prohibition of use of unstamped commercial weight or measures.**
12. Where the size of a commercial weight or measure renders it impracticable to have any denomination marked on it or to be stamped under the provisions of this Act, Government may, by notification, exempt which weight or measure from being so marked or stamped. **Power of Government to exempt.**
13. No person shall sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, or have in his possession for sale, any article contained in a sealed package or container unless such package or container bears thereon or on a label securely attached thereto, a description of the net weight or measure of the article contained therein: **Marking of weights or measures in sealed container.**
- Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to an article sold, offered for sale, exposed for sale, or in possession for sale which is not in the opinion of Government ordinarily sold in transactions of trade or commerce by weight or measure.
14. Subject to the Weights and Measures (International System) Act, 1967 and the rules thereunder Government may prescribe the limits upto which error may be tolerated in secondary standard, working standards, commercial weights and measures or weighing or measuring instruments or selling articles by weight or measure generally or in any trade or class of trades. **Limits of error to be tolerated in weights and measures.**
15. (1) No person shall, in the course of trade, manufacture, repair or sell any commercial weight or measure or any weighing or measuring instrument unless he has obtained a licence in the prescribed manner. **Prohibition of manufacture etc., of weights and measures without licence.**
- (2) The Controller or any officer authorized by him in this behalf, shall, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, be competent to grant licence under sub-

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section(1).

16. (1) A person who has been granted licence under section 15 shall, if so required by Government or an authority nominated by Government in this behalf furnish security in the prescribed manner. **Security.**
- (2) The Controller or any officer authorized by him may, in case of non-compliance of any of the provisions of this Act or any instructions issued by the Controller, or Inspector, order forfeiture of the security or part thereof in such manner as may be prescribed.
17. A person who manufactures, repairs or deals in, weights and measures or weighing or measuring instruments, or uses such weights or measures or instruments in transactions of trade or commerce, shall maintain such record and account and shall, if so required by an Inspector, produce such record and accounts before him for inspection in such manner as may be prescribed: **Manufacturers etc., to maintain records and documents.**
- Provided that Government may, by order in writing exempt any such person or class of such persons from the operation of this section.
18. There shall be charged such fees as may be prescribed- **Levy of fees.**
- (a) for the grant of licences under section 15;
- (b) for the verification or re-verification, marking, stamping and adjustment of commercial weights and measures and weighing or measuring instruments.
19. (1) Government may appoint a Controller and as many Additional Controllers, Deputy Controllers, Assistant Controllers, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors as may be necessary possessing such qualifications as may be prescribed. **Appointment of Controller, Additional Controllers, Deputy Controllers, Assistant Controllers, Inspectors and Asstt. Inspectors.**
- (2) The Controller, additional controllers, deputy Controller, Assistant Controllers, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors shall exercise the powers and discharge the

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duties conferred or imposed on them by or under this Act:

Provided that the Controller Additional Controller, deputy Controller, Assistant Controller, may, in addition to their won powers and duties exercise powers and discharge duties conferred or imposed on the Inspectors.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act, all additional Controllers, Deputy Controllers, Assistant Controllers, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors shall perform their functions under the general superintendence and control of the Controller.

(4) The Controller, Additional Controllers, Deputy Controllers, Assistant Controllers, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors appointed under this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

20. (1) The Controller or any officer nominated by him may, by general or special order, define the local limits within which each Inspector shall exercise the powers and discharge the duties conferred or imposed on Inspectors by or under this Act.

**Jurisdiction
Inspectors.**

of

(2) Every Inspector shall immediately after his appointment enter into a recognizance with Government, in such sum as may be prescribed, for-

(a) the due discharge of his duties;

(b) the due payment of moneys received by him under this Act at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed;

(c) the safety of the secondary standards, the working standards, working instruments and the stamps and appliances for verification in his charge and their due surrender immediately on ceasing to hold office.

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21. (1) An Inspector shall-
- Verification
stamping
Inspectors.**
- and
by**
- (a) attend for the purpose of verification of weights and measures and weighing and measuring instruments, at such place and time, within his jurisdiction, as may be appointed by the Controller;
 - (b) Verify a weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, which is brought to him for the purpose of verification;
 - (c) Stamp in the prescribed manner, a weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument which, on verification as aforesaid he finds to be in conformity with this Act and the rules thereunder.
- (2) An Inspector may-
- (a) inspect all reasonable times, the weights or measures or, weighing or measuring instruments, which are used in transactions of trade or commerce, or are in the possession of any person or are in any premises for such use, and verify every such weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument with a secondary standard or working standard or weighing or measuring instrument prescribed for the purpose;
 - (b) enter at reasonable time with or without assistants who are in the service of Pakistan or in the service of a local authority as he thinks fit, any place where weights or measures or, weighing or measuring instruments are used or kept for use in transaction of trade or commerce, and inspect such weights or measures or weighing or measuring instruments;
 - (c) verify the weight or measure of any article sold or delivered in the course of any transaction, for the purpose of verifying the correctness of any weight or measure used in such

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transaction;

- (d) require reasonable time, any trader or his employee or agent, to produce before him for inspection all weights and measures and weighing and measuring instruments which are used by or are in possession of, or are kept on any premises used for trade by, such trader or his employee or agent and all documents and records relating thereto;
- (e) seize and detain any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument in respect of which an offence under this Act has been committed, or which appears to have been used or is likely to be used in the commission of such an offence, and also seize and detain any article sold or delivered or caused to be sold or delivered by means of such weight or measure or weighting or measuring instrument, together with any documents or records relating thereto;
- (f) break open the sealed package or container, if he has reason to believe that such package or container does not contain the net weight or measure of the article which it purports to contain and verify its contents and if, on such verification, the net weight or measure of the article found to be correct, the Inspector shall reseal the package or container where it is possible so to do without causing injury to the contents thereof, and attach thereto a certificate stating the correct weight or measure of the article; and if, on such verification, the net weight or measure of the article is found to be incorrect, the Inspector may seize and detain the package or container and the article contained therein.

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22. Where Government is of the opinion that is necessary to adjust the weights or measures of weighing or measuring instruments in any area, it may authorize the Inspector of that area to adjust such weights or measures or weighing or measuring instruments. **Power of Inspectors to adjust weights or measures.**
23. Any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, which has been stamped by an Inspector under this Act shall have legal validity in such areas in which the relevant provisions of this Act are in force, and shall not be re-stamped by reason of it being used in an area other than in which it was originally stamped. **Validity of weights and measures duly stamped.**
24. (1) If any difference arises between any person and Inspector with regard to the method of verifying, adjusting or stamping any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument or any other matter under this Act or rules thereunder, the Inspector on request of such person shall, or at his own initiative may refer such difference to the Controller, whose decision, shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), be final. **Appeal.**
- (2) An appeal shall lie-
- (a) from a decision of an Inspector, Assistant Controller or Deputy Controller to the Controller; and
- (b) from a decision of the Controller not being a decision made in appeal under clause (a) to be Director or any other officer authorized by him in this behalf.
- (3) An appeal, under this section shall be preferred within sixty days from the date of the decision.
- (4) On receipt of the appeal, the appellate authority shall, after giving the appellant a reasonable opportunity of being heard, and after making such enquiry as it deems fit make an appropriate order which shall be final.
25. Any person aggrieved by an order made under section 24 not being the order of the Director may apply for revision of such order to such person or authority and **Revision.**

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within such period as may be prescribed and the order made by such person or authority shall be final¹: "provided that no order in revision shall be made unless the aggrieved person is given an opportunity of being heard.".]

CHAPER IV Penalties.

26. (1) Whoever, after the expiry of three months from coming into force of this section, sells or causes to be sold, or delivers or causes to be delivered, in the course of any transaction of trade or commerce, any article by any denomination of weight or measure other than one of the standard weight or measure, shall, on conviction for a first offence, be punished with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, and on conviction for subsequent offence be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months or with fine, or with both. **Penalty for sale or delivery by weight or measure other than standard weights and measures.**
- (2) Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 7 shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand and five hundred rupees.
27. Whoever sells or delivers or causes to be sold or delivered any commercial weight or measure, or any weighing or measuring instrument, which has not been verified, or stamped under this Act and the rules thereunder, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees. **Penalty for sale of unstamped commercial weights and measures.**
28. Whoever uses in any transaction of trade or commerce, or has in his possession for such use, any commercial weight or measure or any weighing or measuring instrument, which has not been verified, or re-verified, or stamped under this Act and the rules thereunder shall, on conviction, for a first offence be punished with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, and on conviction for a subsequent offence be **Penalty for use of possession of unstamped commercial weights and measures.**

¹ In section 25, full stop replaced by colon thereafter proviso added vide Sindh Act No.XXXV of 1984 dated October 24, 1984.

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punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both.

Explanation 1.- When any such weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, is found in the possession of any trader, or his employee or agent, such trader, employee or agent shall, until the contrary is proved, be presumed to possess it for use in transaction of trade or commerce.

Explanation 2.- Where any employee or agent of a trader uses or has in possession for use, on behalf of such trader any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument mentioned in this section such trader shall, unless he proves that the offence is committed without his knowledge or consent, also be liable for such offence.

29. Whoever contravenes provisions of a notification issued under section 8, shall be punished with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees. **Penalty for use of weight or measure in contravention of section 8.**
30. Where any person manufactures, repairs or sells any commercial weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, without a licence under section 15, he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both. **Penalty for manufacture, repair or sale of weight etc., without licence.**
31. Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 13 shall be punished with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees. **Penalty for failure to mark weight or measure on sealed containers.**
32. Whoever fraudulently uses any weight or measure of weighing or measuring instrument, which he knows to be false shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. **Penalty for fraudulent use of weights measures, etc.**

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33. Whoever has in his possession a weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, which he knows to be false, intending that it may be fraudulently used, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. **Penalty for being in possession of false weight or measure, etc.**
34. Whoever sells any article by weight or measure and delivers or causes to be delivered to the purchaser less than what is purported to be sold shall, if the deficiency exceeds the prescribed limit of error, be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both. **Penalty for given short weight or measure, etc.**
35. (1) Whoever forges or counter-feits any stamp used for stamping any standard weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, or possesses any such counterfeit stamp, or removes a stamp from any standard weight or measure of weighing or measuring instrument and insert the same into another weight or measures or weighing or measuring instrument, or willfully increases or diminishes weight or measure so stamped, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. **Penalty for forging etc., of weights and measures, etc.**
- (2) Whoever knowing uses, or sells or offers for sale or disposes of any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument with forged or counterfeit stamp thereon, or a weight or a measure increased or diminished as aforesaid shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

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36. (a) Whoever refuses or neglects to produce for inspection under section 21 any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument, or any documents, or record relating thereto, in his possession or on his premises; or obstructs or in any manner hinders an Inspector in the performance of his duties under this Act; or
- (b) fails to maintain the records or accounts or to produce such record before an inspection under section 17, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine, which may extend to two thousand and five hundred rupees, or with both.
37. Whoever makes, sells or disposes of, or causes to be made, sold or disposed of, any weight or measure of weighing or measuring instrument, which he knows or has reason to believe to be false in order that the same may be used as true or knowing that the same is likely to be used as true, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.
38. Where an officer appointed under this Act knowingly acts or discharges his duties in contravention of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.
39. If a person committing an offence under this Act or rules thereunder is a company or other body corporate, every director, manager, secretary or other officer or agent thereof shall, unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent such commission of the offence be deemed to be guilty of such offence.
40. A weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument in respect of which an offence has been committed under this Act or rules thereunder, shall be forfeited to Government.
- Penalty for neglect or refusal to produce weight or measure etc., for inspection.**
- Penalty for making or selling false weights or measures, etc.**
- Penalty for breach of duty.**
- Offences by companies and Corporations.**
- Forfeiture.**

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41. If an Inspector or any person acting under general or special authority of the Controller produces in court any weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument which has been stamped under the provisions of this Act and the rules thereunder, such weight or measure or weighing or measuring instrument shall be presumed to be correct until contrary is proved the burden of which shall be on a person challenging its correctness.
- Stamped weights etc., to be presumed to be correct.**
42. Government may, by notification, direct that any power exercisable by it under this Act shall, in relation to such matters and subject to such conditions, as may be specified, be exercisable also by any officer or authority subordinate to it.
- Delegation of powers.**
43. Where the Federal Government has by notification issued under sub-section (2) of section 22 of the Weights and Measures (International System) Act, 1967 permitted the use of such weights and measures in such area or in respect of such class of goods or undertakings for such period specified in the notification then the provisions of this Act shall not apply, in that area or in relation to that class of good or undertaking, but notwithstanding section 48 the provisions of the laws in force immediately before coming into force of this Act shall continue to have effect in such areas or in relation to such class of goods or undertakings.
- Special provisions during period for which other weights and measures permitted to be used under section 22(2) of Act V of 1967.**
44. Subject to the provisions of section 43 on all or any of the provisions of this Act being brought into force in any area, or in respect of any class or undertakings, or any class of goods, the Sindh Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1965 or, as the case may be, the provision of any such law which corresponds to the provision of this Act, which is brought into force, shall, in relation to such area, class of undertakings or class of goods, cease to apply, any upon such ceaser section 7 and 25 of the Sind General Clauses Act, 1`956 shall apply thereto.
- Sind Weights and Measures Act, 1965 or corresponding laws to be ceased to apply.**

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45. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person, in respect of anything which is done or intended to be done, in good faith under this Act or rules thereunder. **Protection of action taken in good faith.**
46. No court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the first class shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this Act except upon a complaint in writing made by the Controller or any officer authorities by him in this behalf. **Cognizance of offences.**
47. (1) Government may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act. **Power to make rules.**
- (2) The power to make rules under this section shall be subject to previous publication in the official Gazette.
- (3) Such rules may provide that a breach thereof shall be punished with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees.
48. (1) The Sind Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1965, is hereby repealed. **Repeal.**
- (2) Anything done or action taken (including any appointments, rules and orders made, notification or licences issued and appeals preferred) under the Ordinance so repealed shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act as if this Act were in force on the day on which such thing was done or take under this Act as if this Act were in force on the day on which such thing was done or action was taken.