



Michigan  
*Office of the Auditor General*  
**REPORT SUMMARY**

*Performance Audit*

Report Number:  
791-0127-12

*Weights and Measures Program*

*Consumer Protection Section, Laboratory  
Division, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
and Rural Development (MDARD)*

Released:  
August 2013

*The mission of MDARD's Consumer Protection Section, within the Laboratory Division, is to prevent economic fraud and deception concerning weights and measures, motor fuel quality, and labeling and advertising of all commodities; to be responsible for environmental issues related to the distribution of gasoline products; to provide National Institute of Standards and Technology traceability on the State's standards and measures; and to provide regulatory resource expertise to the public, industry, and government.*

***Audit Objective:***

To assess the effectiveness of MDARD's efforts to monitor the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices used for commerce and the accuracy of the stated weight, measure, or count of products for sale in Michigan.

***Audit Conclusion:***

MDARD's efforts to monitor the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices used for commerce and the accuracy of the stated weight, measure, or count of products for sale in Michigan were moderately effective. We noted four reportable conditions (Findings 1 through 4) and three observations (Observations 1 through 3).

***Reportable Conditions:***

MDARD had not established detailed written procedures for imposing fines and economic benefit penalties on businesses with inaccurate weighing and measuring

devices and short weight packages in accordance with State statutes (Finding 1).

The Weights and Measures Program did not conduct timely reinspections of condemned devices (Finding 2).

The Weights and Measures Program did not inspect all licensed retail motor fuel outlets, including gasoline stations, in accordance with the Laboratory Division's recommended time frames (Finding 3).

MDARD did not prioritize inspections based on a risk assessment to ensure the efficient use of limited resources and to help ensure that it periodically inspected high-risk devices, packages, businesses with price scanners, and businesses that post prices (Finding 4).

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**Audit Objective:**

To assess the effectiveness of MDARD's efforts to timely investigate and resolve complaints regarding weights, measures, price advertising, price scanner errors, and packaging.

**Audit Conclusion:**

MDARD's efforts to timely investigate and resolve complaints regarding weights, measures, price advertising, price scanner errors, and packaging were effective. Our audit report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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**Agency Responses:**

Our audit report contains 4 findings and 4 corresponding recommendations. MDARD's preliminary response indicates that it agrees with 3 recommendations and disagrees with 1 recommendation.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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