

# STATE OF ALASKA

Sean Parnell, GOVERNOR

12050 INDUSTRY WAY  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515-3567

PHONE (907) 365-1210  
FAX (907) 365-1220

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Dan Breeden, Director

### DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT STANDARDS and COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT

August 13, 2010

All vehicle scale owners/operators

Subject: Single draft weighing

With the advent of longer trucks and double trailers used for commercial activity in Alaska, there may be some confusion as to the legal method of weighing vehicles longer than the scale platform. This will clarify the user requirements outlined in Handbook 44 covering single draft vehicle weighing.

NIST Handbook 44, Scales Code, Paragraph UR.3.3. which is adopted in State Statute AS 45.75.050(d), states that:

**U.R.3.3 Single Draft Weighing. - A vehicle or a coupled vehicle combination shall be commercially weighed on a vehicle scale only as a single draft. That is, the total weight of such a vehicle or combination shall not be determined by adding together the results obtained by separately and not simultaneously weighing each end of such vehicle or individual elements of such coupled combination. However:**

- a) the weight of a coupled combination may be determined by uncoupling the various elements (tractor, semitrailer, trailer), weighing each unit separately as a single draft, and adding together the results, or
- b) the weight of a vehicle or coupled-vehicle combination may be determined by adding together the weights obtained while all individual elements are resting simultaneously on more than one scale platform

**Note: This paragraph does not apply to highway-law-enforcement scales and scales used for the collection statistical data.**

The only way to obtain a commercial weight on a combination longer than the scale platform is to uncouple the various elements (tractor, semi-trailer, trailer) weighing each unit as a single draft and adding together the results. **The practice of weighing the vehicle in multiple drafts while coupled together is neither accurate nor legal.** The alternative to this method of weighing is to add to or replace the present scale equipment with a scale or scales capable of weighing the vehicle combinations in a single draft.

The regulation does not prohibit the multiple draft method of weighing to obtain estimates of axle weights.