

Portable Pitless Scales and Portable Hopper Scales

Installation and operation of a self-contained portable pitless scale and a self-contained portable hopper scale **for commercial use** is prohibited under North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-10-02-05 unless the scale is used solely to weigh materials used for **government highway construction**. However, the operator of such a scale may request a [variance permit](#) from the commission. ([North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-10-02-05](#))

Scale Installation and Operation (if a [variance permit](#) is issued)

All scales must be installed and operated per [NIST Handbook 44](#) (1999 Edition) and North Dakota [Laws](#) and [Rules](#) including the following criteria:

- Each scale, when placed in service, must meet acceptance tolerance as identified in [NIST Handbook 44](#) G-T.1.
- A scale that is installed at a location for a period of six months or more, must meet approach requirements found in [North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-10-02-09](#) and [NIST Handbook 44](#) UR.2.6.1 as follows:
 - On the entrance and exit ends of a vehicle scale installed in any one location for a period of 6 months or more, the approaches shall be as follows:
 - The approach widths shall be at least the width of the platform,
 - The approaches shall be straight for a length of twelve feet or a distance equal to one-third of deck length, whichever is greater, beginning in a level plane with the surface of the scale deck, and
 - The first twelve feet of the straight approach from the scale must be of metal or concrete to insure that this portion remains smooth and level and in the same plane as the platform. Metal grating must be of sufficient strength to withstand all loads equal to the concentrated load capacity of the scale. Any slope of the remaining portion of the straight approach away from the scale deck may not exceed one-third inch [8.47 millimeters] per foot [30.48 centimeters].
 - Any slope in any remaining portion of approaches beyond the straight approach shall ensure ease of vehicle access, ease for testing purposes, and drainage away from the scale.

Variance Permit Request

- Submit a written request for each scale for which you are requesting a self-contained portable pitless scale or a self-contained portable hopper scale variance permit. Each request must include all the items identified in [North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-10-01-04.1](#).