



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### BOBS WEIGHBRIDGE VERIFICATION SERVICES

The Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) would like to inform its customers and the public of a significant change regarding the verification process for weighbridges. With effect from **January 1, 2025**, BOBS will directly handle verification requests from companies that own weighbridges.

#### KEY POINTS TO NOTE:

##### 1. Verification Requirements -

- Weighbridges must undergo annual assizing (verification) as well as verification after any repairs or calibration.
- Requests for quotations must be made directly to BOBS every time the weighbridge is ready for calibration or after repairs.

##### 2. Prepayment Requirement:

- Prepayment will be required for verification services. BOBS will only proceed with the service once proof of payment is received.

##### 3. Regulatory Compliance:

It is the responsibility of the company to ensure that all measuring equipment used in trade complies with regulations 27 and 28 of the **Weights and Measures Act, 2006**.

**Regulations 27 of the Weights and Measures Act of 2006 states that;** *‘Any person who has in his or her possession for use in trade any unassized instrument, weight or measure shall, without undue delay-*

- (a) cause that instrument, weight or measure to be assized or reassized;*
- (b) obtain a written authority for the use in trade of such instrument, weight or measure from an assizer in terms of subsection (2).*
- (2) An assizer may, upon receipt of-*
  - (a) the prescribed fee; and*
  - (b) a written statement by the holder of a certificate of competency that an unassized instrument, weight or measure is correct and assizable, issue written authority to any person to use that instrument, weight or measure in trade during such period and subject to such conditions, if any, as the assizer may specify therein.’*

- Specifically, Regulation 27 mandates that instruments used in trade must be assized (verified) or re-assized without undue delay if they have not been verified.
- The instrument's owner must obtain written authorization from an assizer for its use in trade.
- The verification process is subject to the prescribed fee and a statement from the certificate of competency holder confirming that the instrument is correct and assizable.

##### 4. Penalties for Non-Compliance:

- Non-compliance with the **Weights and Measures Act 2006** is an offence punishable by law. Regulations 31(f) of the Weights and Measures Act of 2006 states that, *‘Any person who knowingly contravenes any condition imposed with respect to any instrument, weight or measure by virtue of section 30 (4), commits an offence and, except as is otherwise specially provided in this Act, upon conviction, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding P6,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.’*

This change emphasizes BOBS' commitment to ensuring the accuracy and fairness of trade practices in Botswana, and companies are urged to adhere to the outlined procedures.

**For further clarifications please do not hesitate to contact BOBS Trade Metrology Offices**