

Tennessee Weights and Measures Regulations for Packaged Firewood

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There are indeed some little-known regulations for packaged firewood products in Tennessee. The regulatory oversight applies to packaged natural wood, fireplace and stove wood and is provided by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Regulatory Services Division, Weights and Measures Program. Packaged wood comes under the program for "Miscellaneous Items in Commerce." The primary contact with the Department of Agriculture is Bob Williams, Standards Administrator for the Weights & Measures Program (615-837-5109).

There is no pre-registration, no pre-certification, no pre-approval and no pre-licensing required. The only two applicable regulatory concerns that must be on the package are:

- 1) Name and address of the packer/supplier
- 2) Product amount

The product amount must be expressed in cubic measures, in both customary and metric. That is, the product package must indicate the amount of wood in cubic feet or cubic yards (customary) **and** in cubic meters (metric). Listing the product weight is not required and if it is included it is not a sufficient indication of product amount.

There are no regulatory requirements for package handles or a product name. However, an additional package feature that may be helpful to the consumer is identification of the species of wood in the package (such as oak, hickory, mixed hardwoods or mixed species).

While the weights and measures inspectors are not routinely pulling these types of products and looking for violations . . . the most common investigations will result from a consumer complaint to the department or from an inspector who happens to notice that a product does not meet the packaging requirements. A "warning and suggested modification" is the normal response to a first violation.

Additional information on the regulation is available from the weights and measures program of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.