BELIZE

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT
CHAPTER 294

REVISED EDITION 2000
SHOWING THE LAW AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2000

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 1980 - 1990.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws-

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS 3

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT 4
Amendments in force as at 31st December, 2000.
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**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

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**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT**

Amendments in force as at 31st December, 2000.
Weights and Measures

CHAPTER 294

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Short title.


3. Imperial troy and avoirdupois weights to be used.

4. Also imperial gallon and its parts.

5. The bushel and its use and capacity.

6. Measure of extension defined.

7. Contracts to be made affected by this Act.

8. Standard weights, etc., to be kept in office of Inspector of Weights and Measures.


10. Inspector to make inspection once in three months.

11. Inspector may stamp weights, etc. Penalty for refusing to allow him.

12. Penalty for counterfeiting or uttering counterfeit of inspector’s mark.

13. Penalty where none specifically provided.

CHAPTER 294

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[13th March, 1849]

1. This Act may be cited as the Weights and Measures Act.

2.-(1) It shall be the duty of the head of the Bureau of Standards to perform all the duties prescribed for the Inspector of Weights and Measures by or under this Act.

(2) The head of the Bureau of Standards may delegate all or any of his functions under this Act to any other officer or employee of the Bureau.

(3) In this Act, “Bureau” means the Bureau of Standards established under the Standards Act.

3. The standard imperial troy weights and avoirdupois weights at present used by law in Great Britain are declared to be the only legal standard weights to be used in Belize, whereby all articles sold by weights shall be sold and disposed of, and all such articles shall be sold by avoirdupois weight except gold, silver, platina, diamonds or other precious stones and drugs when sold by retail, and such excepted articles, and none other, may be sold by troy weight.

4. The standard imperial measures of capacity, as well for liquids as for dry goods, shall be the imperial gallon now in use in Great Britain, and all other measures of capacity to be used shall be taken in parts or multiples or certain proportions of the said imperial standard gallon, as they are taken, computed, and ascertained in Great Britain.
5. The standard measure of capacity for corn, lime, potatoes, salt, fruit, and other goods usually sold by the bushel, shall be the bushel, containing eight gallons, or eighty pounds avoirdupois.

6. The genuine standard yard measure, containing three feet, or thirty-six inches in length, in use in Great Britain, is declared to be the standard measure of extension, wherefrom or whereby all measures of extension whatever, whether they be lineal, superficial or solid, shall be computed and ascertained, and all other measures of length shall be taken in parts or multiples or certain proportions of the standard yard, as they are taken, computed, and ascertained in Great Britain.

7. All contracts, bargains, sales and dealings, which are made or had in Belize, for any work to be done, or for any goods, wares, merchandise, or other thing, to be sold, delivered, done, or agreed for, by weight or measure, shall be deemed, taken and construed to be made and had according to the standard weights and measures ascertained by this Act, and by no other weights or measures whatever.

8.-(1) A copy or model of each of the standard pounds, the standard gallon, the standard bushel, and the standard yard, and a triangle, beam, and pair of scales, shall be deposited and kept in the office of the Inspector of Weights and Measures in each district, that reference may be had to them when necessary, and duplicates of such copy or models of the weights and measures aforesaid, and of the triangle, beam, and scales aforesaid, shall be held and kept by the head of the Bureau.

(2) The duplicate weights and measures mentioned in subsection (1) shall be compared with the copies of the standard weights and measures kept in his office by the Inspector of Weights and Measures at least once in every three months, in the presence of an officer authorised by the head of the Bureau, and every weight and measure, which, upon such comparison, shall

The bushel and its use and capacity.

Measure of extension defined.

Contracts to be made affected by this Act.

Standard weights, etc., to be kept in office of Inspector of Weights and Measures.
be found short, deficient, or untrue, shall be destroyed and other weights and measures shall be procured in their stead at the expense of Belize.

9.- (1) The Inspector of Weights and Measures may enter any shop, store, wharf, warehouse, stall, yard, or place whatever, wherein goods or anything shall be kept or exposed for sale, or shall be weighed for the purpose of shipping, conveyance, or carriage, and there to weigh all weights, and try all measures, beams, or scales, or other weighing machines, and compare and try them with weights and measures equal to the copies of the standard weights and measures mentioned in section 8 and required to be kept in his office.

(2) If any weights, measures, beams, scales or machines are found deficient, light, unjust or untrue, they shall be seized by the Inspector of Weights and Measures, and taken before a magistrate, who shall, upon its being shown to his satisfaction that such weights, measures, beams, scales or machines are light, deficient, unjust or untrue, declare them to be forfeited, and order them to be destroyed, and the person in whose possession such forfeited weights, measures, beams, scales or machines, have been found, commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five dollars, for each and every weight, measure, beam, scale or machine forfeited and ordered to be destroyed.

(3) The Inspector of Weights and Measures, whenever the difference between any weights on any wharf, or in any store, or shop, or place of business, and the copies of the standard weights is not considerable, and is not in his opinion occasioned by any improper means, or with any fraudulent intent, but by the usual wear and tear, and loss of weight by rust, occasioned by the exposure of the weights to damp air, may refrain from seizing them, and proceed to adjust them and make them equal to the copies of the standard weights, by attaching and firmly fastening to them one or more ring or rings; but that no such ring shall be attached to any weights under fourteen pounds avoirdupois.
(4) No person shall use any weight made of lead or tin, and all such weights may be seized and destroyed by the Inspector of Weights and Measures, or seized and taken by any other person before a magistrate, who shall order all such weights to be immediately destroyed.

10. The Inspector of Weights and Measures shall not be entitled to any fee whatever from the parties in possession of any weights and measures which he may adjust, and he shall inspect the weights and measures in each place of public business once at least in every three months.

11. The Inspector of Weights and Measures may, if he see fit, cause a stamp to be put on all weights and measures to be used under the provisions of this Act, and any person refusing such stamp to be put on any weight or measure by the person appointed for such purpose, commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five dollars.

12.-(1) If any person makes, forges or counterfeits, or causes or procures to be made, forged or counterfeited, or knowingly aids or assists in the making, forging or counterfeiting of, any stamp or mark adopted and used at any time by authority of the Inspector of Weights and Measures for the stamping or marking of any weights or measures to denote that any of such weights or measures have or has been compared, adjusted and approved to be of the due weight or measure required by law, he commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars.

(2) If any person sells, utters, disposes of or exposes for sale any such illegal weight or measure, with or without such forged or counterfeited stamp or mark thereon, he commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and all illegal weights and measures, with or without such forged or counterfeited marks, so exposed or offered for sale, shall be forfeited and ordered to be destroyed.

13. For every offence against this Act for which no penalty is provided, the offender is liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to
14. All penalties imposed by this Act shall be recovered upon summary conviction.