

This guidance note explains how the **Weights and Measures (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 1991** applies to selling pet food in Guernsey and Alderney.

The Law

Part IX of Schedule 7 of the Weights and Measures (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 1991 says:

“Articles offered as feed for household pets, being manufactured feed or bird feed, other than animal feed in biscuit or cake form pre-packed in a quantity by number not exceeding 16 ...

Unless pre-packed, shall be sold by retail only by net weight; and

shall be pre-packed only if the container is marked with an indication of quantity by net weight ...

[this] does not apply to ... bird seed in a quantity of less than 4 ounces, or other seeds in a quantity of less than half an ounce”

What Does This Mean?

Pre-packed pet food must be marked with net weight. For further information on packing pet food, please refer to the trader information leaflet “Packaged Goods”.

However, if you are selling pet food loose, it will need to be sold by net weight and weighed on a scale approved for trade use.

Selling by net weight means you will usually have to tare the scale to take into account the weight of the bag. On most machines you can do this by placing an empty bag on the scale pan and pressing the tare button “>T<” so that the display shows zero.

What About Biscuits and Cake Seeds?

Unless there are more than 16 biscuits in a package, you do not have to weigh them. Instead you can sell them by the package (e.g. a bag of ten dog biscuits). However, this doesn’t stop you from being able to sell them by weight if you want to, and they must still be sold by weight if they are sold loose.

This rule includes other biscuits and cakes, for instance “holiday” fish food and bird feed in the form of a “fat ball” or shaped into coconut half.

What About Small Amounts of Feed?

If you are selling very small amounts of bird food they do not have to be sold by weight, as long as the packages are less than 4 ounces (113g) or other seeds less than half an ounce (14g)

What Scales do I Need?

You will need an approved weighing machine with a government stamp. Detailed information can be found in the trader information leaflet “Weighing and Measuring Equipment”.

It is recommended that you contact Trading Standards for further advice on the sale of goods by weight to ensure compliance with the law.

Important Note

This leaflet is a guide to the Law, but is not an authoritative interpretation of the Law, which is ultimately a matter for the Courts.

While every care has been taken in preparation the States of Guernsey cannot accept any liability in law for its contents or interpretation.

For further advice or information on these or other matters, please contact Trading Standards



States of Guernsey
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Selling Pet Food by Weight

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