

This leaflet explains how the **Weights and Measures (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 1991** applies to the sale of fresh fruit and vegetables.

## Loose Fruit and Vegetables

Loose fruit and vegetables may be sold either by **net weight** or by **gross weight** (see below). Certain produce, known as **countable produce**, may be sold by number, and certain vegetables may be sold by the **bunch**.

### Countable Produce

Apples, apricots, artichokes (globe), aubergines, avocados, bananas, beetroots (including cooked), cabbages, cauliflowers, capsicums, celery, coconuts, corn on the cob, cucumbers, fennel, figs (fresh), garlic, grapefruits, guavas, kiwi fruits, kohlrabis, lemons, lettuces, limes, mangoes, melons, nectarines, onions (other than spring), oranges, passion fruits, pawpaws, peaches, pears, pineapples, plums, pomegranates, pomelos, pumpkins, radishes, shaddocks, soft citrus fruits, tomatoes, uglis.

### Vegetables which may be Sold by the Bunch

Asparagus, beetroots, carrots, chives, endives, garlic, mint, mustard and cress, onions (including spring), parsley, radishes, salad cress, turnips, watercress.

## Sales by the Punnet

**Soft fruits and mushrooms** may be sold either by net weight or by gross weight (see below). The weight must be made known to the customer before they make payment.

**Soft fruits** are defined as:

Bilberries, blackberries, blackcurrants, boysenberries, brambles, cherries, cranberries, gooseberries, loganberries, mulberries, raspberries, redcurrants, strawberries, tayberries and whitecurrants.

## Prepacked Fruit and Vegetables

Goods which are **pre-packed** are made up in advance, ready for retail sale, in or on a container. Produce which is weighed in front of the customer is not pre-packed.

Pre-packed fruit or vegetables, other than countable produce, must be packed by net weight. Countable produce may be packed by net weight or by number.

Pre-packed potatoes may be treated as countable if **each** potato weighs at least 175g. Special marking requirements apply – see below.

### Marking

If the goods are packed by net weight, the container must be marked with that weight. If they are packed by number, the container must be marked with that number unless it is transparent and there are no

more than eight articles of countable produce in it, which the customer can clearly see and count.

Packs of countable potatoes, where each potato weighs at least 175g, must be marked with the **number** of potatoes and a **statement** that each potato in the container is of a weight not less than a specified weight. The specified weight must be at least 175g, but could be greater, e.g. 200g.

All quantity marking must be of a minimum size, depending on the quantity in the pack:

WEIGHT	MINIMUM HEIGHT OF FIGURES
Not exceeding 50g	2mm
Exceeding 50g but not exceeding 200g	3mm
Exceeding 200g but not exceeding 1kg	4mm
Exceeding 1kg	6mm

## Prescribed Quantities for Potatoes

Except as described above, pre-packed potatoes may only be made up in the following quantities:

**Imperial quantities:** 8oz, 12oz, 1lb, 1.5lb, or multiples of 1lb.

**Metric quantities:** 500g, 1kg, 1.5kg, 2kg, 2.5kg, 5kg, 7.5kg, 10kg, 12.5kg, 15kg, 20kg, 25kg.

## Gross and Net Weight

The term “**net weight**” refers to the weight of the goods without the wrapper or container, while “**gross weight**” means the weight of the goods plus the wrapper or container.

Fruit and vegetables other than soft fruits and mushrooms may be sold by gross weight only if the container does not exceed the following permitted weights:

GROSS WEIGHT	PERMITTED WEIGHT OF CONTAINER
Not exceeding 500g	5g
Exceeding 500g	10g per kg of the gross weight

Soft fruits and mushrooms may be sold by gross weight only if the container does not exceed the following permitted weights:

GROSS WEIGHT	PERMITTED WEIGHT OF CONTAINER
Not exceeding 250g	120g per kg of the gross weight
Exceeding 250g but not exceeding 1kg	100g per kg of the gross weight
Exceeding 1kg but not exceeding 3kg	90g per kg of the gross weight
Exceeding 3kg	60g per kg of the gross weight

## Equipment

Retailers selling loose fresh fruit and vegetables must do so using stamped weighing equipment. Further information is available in our separate leaflet entitled ‘Weighing and Measuring Equipment’.

Packers who make up packages in advance for retail sale must use suitable equipment. Please contact the Trading Standards Service for further guidance.

## Enforcement

Trading Standards Officers are responsible for enforcing the Law. They visit premises regularly and without notice to carry out inspections of weighing and measuring equipment and goods. The Law prohibits certain activities relating to selling fresh fruit and vegetables, such as:

- Selling short weight goods;
- Selling pre-packed fruit or vegetables without the proper markings;
- Selling loose fruit or vegetables using unstamped equipment;
- Using equipment which is **false or unjust**;
- Using equipment to commit **fraud**.

## 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 the Trading Standards Service.



States of Guernsey  
Trading Standards

## Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

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