

PART 3

WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Introduction

The following is a summary of the legislation relating to weights and measures.

THE WEIGHTS & MEASURES ACT 1985

This makes short weight an offence and requires that, if you sell honey in a jar, it must be in prescribed quantities. The prescribed quantities are 57 g (2 oz.), 113 g (4 oz.), 227 g (8 oz.), 340g (12 oz.), 454 g (1 lb.), 680 g (1.5 lbs.) or multiples of 1 lb. Honey of less than 50 g or comb honey may be packed in any quantity. If less than 5g it is exempt from marking.

There is also a requirement to check weigh honey to ensure that it is of the correct weight and records of the check weighing must be maintained. Appendix B, in addition to the Lot Number, also provides a section for acknowledging that weight has been checked. Ideally, the weight given should be exactly as specified and not over or under but it is unlikely that you would be prosecuted for selling over weight.

If a beekeeper wishes to pack to the minimum weight system, i.e., not less than a prescribed quantity, then they must use a suitable trade approved stamped weighing machine to make up every container.

Should the beekeeper use a filling machine to fill jars then they must statistically check the production and keep a record of all checks carried out.

Weighing machines for checking honey are permitted in a variety of forms and may be stamped or not.

The beekeeper is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of any weighing machine used for carrying out statistical checks.

Only the metric weight need appear. If it is desired to use both, the imperial weight should follow and be less prominent.

- The minimum height of figures used is:
- for a quantity not exceeding 50g - 2 millimetres
- for a quantity exceeding 50g but not exceeding 200g - 3 millimetres
- for a quantity exceeding 200g but not exceeding 1kg - 4 millimetres
- for a quantity exceeding 1kg - 6 millimetres