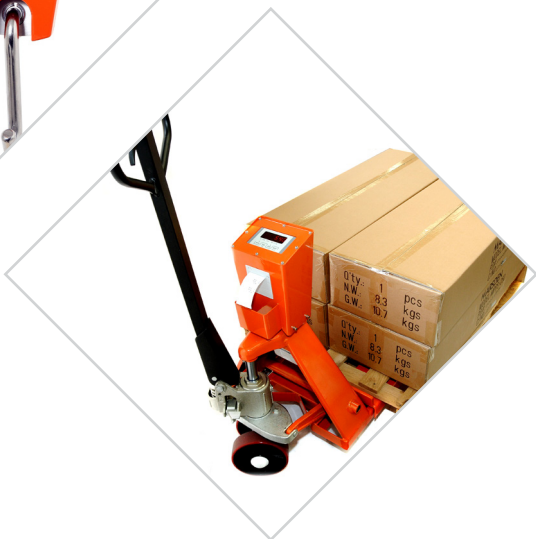




MARSDEN

Industrial Weighing Terms Glossary



INTRODUCTION

Whether weighing is a very small part of your company's activities, or you rely solely on the weight of goods for buying and selling, it's likely you'll always come across weighing terms that you are bamboozled by.

At Marsden, we know that a lot of the language we use may go over many people's heads. So, to help make your job a little easier - both when using weighing scales, and when you're buying them - we've put together this industrial weighing terms glossary.

If there are any terms listed that are still confusing for you, or if you come across any weighing terms that aren't listed in this document, please let us know!

Bench Scale

Typically, a bench scale is one that can be placed on a worktop for weighing small to medium sized goods. Bench scales can be found, for example, in bakeries where ingredients are weighed; despatch areas, where items are weighed prior to leaving a factory; and the chemical industry, where small to medium quantities of chemicals need to be check-weighed.

Calibration Certificate

Calibration is a definition used to determine the accuracy of a weighing scale; all weighing scales (well, all those from Marsden at least) are calibrated before they leave the factory to ensure they are weighing correctly.

A Calibration Certificate is a record of when the last calibration check of a weighing scale took place, and helps with scale traceability - for example, when a scale is used in an area where weights are monitored, the calibration certificate will show if, over a given period of time, the scale has lost accuracy - and will provide a record of the errors in the readings, before it is recalibrated again.

Capacity

The capacity of a scale is the maximum amount of weight the scale can register. Scales are at risk of damage if they are loaded with weights greater than their capacity.

Counting Scale

A counting scale is typically used to check weigh small individual items in quantity. For example, an automotive parts manufacturer may wish to weigh bolts - but instead of weighing each bolt individually, only one bolt needs to be placed on the scale. Once the counting scale has measured the weight of the bolt, a large quantity of these bolts can be placed on the scale. The counting scale will then, based on the total weight, calculate the total number of bolts in the sample.

Counting scales are highly popular in warehouses and production facilities, and can be either Trade Approved or non-Trade Approved.

Crane Scale

A crane scale is a weighing device that hangs from lifting equipment, like the hook of a crane.

Crane scales can be used in many scenarios, from weighing fish in a net to large steel beams.



Declaration of Conformity

The Declaration of Conformity is the certificate to confirm your weighing device is Trade Approved.

See also: Trade Approved

Floor Scale

A floor scale is simply the name for a scale that is placed on the floor for weighing. They will usually consist of a weighing platform and a separate indicator.

This is a very broad term, and generally you will find that floor scales are also used as bench scales, depending on the dimensions of the platform and the items being weighed.

Graduation

Another essential specification to bear in mind when purchasing a scale (along with capacity), graduation denotes the increments in which a scale measures. For example, a weighing scale with graduations of 200g will display weight readings to the nearest 200g.

Hold

The Hold function of a weighing scale allows you to get an accurate weight reading without it fluctuating when the subject on the scale moves. Press the Hold button and the scale will calculate the average weight between the fluctuations, and hold it on the display.

Indicator

An indicator is the display that shows the weight reading on a scale.

IP Rating

The IP (or ingress protection) rating of a weighing scale indicates how waterproof the weighing scale. An IP rating as high as 68 means the weighing scale is waterproof.

Load Cell

A load cell is a transducer that is used to create an electrical signal. When a weight is placed on a scale, the pressure on the load cell affects the electrical signal - and the degree in which it is affected results in the weight reading the scale provides.



Parcel Scale

A parcel scale is used for in-coming and out-going parcels. These can vary in size depending on the size of parcels that require weighing, and will also be sometimes referred to as bench scales or floor scales.

See also: Bench Scale, Floor Scale

Platform

The platform of a weighing scale is the base, where goods are placed to register a weight.

Platform Scale

A platform scale is a weighing scale that consists of a large platform and a separate indicator. Platform scales are used in warehouse and factory settings, usually to weigh pallets.

Some platform scales are fitted with ramps, so they can be driven over by pallet trucks or fork lift trucks - these may sometimes be referred to as 'drive thrus'.

Pre-set Tare

Pre-set Tare allows unwanted weight to be removed from the reading on a scale, before the weight that needs to be read is placed on the scale.

As an example: a bucket of fish needs to be weighed, but without the weight of the bucket being included. The weight of the bucket can be inputted into the indicator prior to weighing the fish, so when the bucket of fish is weighed, only the weight of the fish is displayed.

Pre-setting the Tare weight means the weight to be excluded is already taken into account when the bucket of fish is placed onto the scale. See also: Tare.

Retail Scale

A retail scale is one used in the buying or selling of goods - so will be Trade Approved.

Retail scales calculate the price to be charged based on the weight of the goods on the scale. Data can usually be stored within the scale, too, allowing prices to be calculated based on the single pressing of a button. Price per kilo, for example, can be pre-set into the scale.

See also: Trade Approved



Tare

Tare weight is the unwanted weight on a scale. Using the Tare function, the unwanted weight is removed, returning the scale to zero - so the required weight, of the goods for example, is the only weight displayed. Tare can also be explained like this:

Net weight (the weight of the goods) = Gross weight (the total weight) - tare weight (the weight of the container etc)

You can see our full description of Tare and Pre-set Tare here: <http://www.marsden-weighing.co.uk/index.php/blog/what-is-tare/>

See also: Pre-set Tare.

Trade approved

Trade approval applies to weighing scales that are used in the buying and selling of goods. Legally, a weighing scale must be Trade Approved if goods are bought or sold based on their weight.

A directive, 2009/23/EC, was introduced in April 2009 to help with harmonising the rules which apply to weighing instruments. This directive was specifically put in place to help protect the public against the consequences of incorrect weighing results. In an industrial or retail environment, this can ensure that customers are not over-charged or under-paid for items.

Units

The Units a weighing scale measures in determine how the weight reading is displayed - typically, for example, lbs or kgs.

U-Frame

U-frames are large industrial weighing devices, used as an alternative to platform scales or weigh beams. Like weigh beams, they consist of two rectangular sections fitted with load cells - but in this case a connecting beam at one end makes the scale a single unit, in the shape of a 'U' (hence the name 'U-frame').

These scales are typically used for weighing pallets using pallet trucks.



Weigh Beam

Weigh beams - supplied in pairs - are two beams, used for weighing pallets. Usually two load cells are fitted within each weigh beam. To weigh a pallet, the beams are laid the appropriate distance apart - and it's this way of weighing that makes them a more flexible alternative to platform scales.

Zero

The Zero function of a weighing scale allows you to return the weight reading on the display to zero.





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Find out more:

MARSDEN

Tel: 01709 364296 / 0800 169 2775

Fax: 01709 364293

E-mail: sales@marsdengroup.co.uk

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