

Title 7

CONSUMER PROTECTION¹

This title is intended for those provisions of the Code which protect the consumer from deceptive and fraudulent practices.

Chapters:

- 7.04 Weights and Measures Code
- 7.08 False and Misleading Advertising
- 7.12 Disclosure of Unit Prices
- 7.16 Real Property Transfer Certificates
- 7.20 Floating Home Moorages

Seattle Municipal code
as adopted in 1980
For current SMC, contact
the Office of the City Clerk

1. Cross-reference: For provisions regarding offenses against persons and property, see Title 12A Criminal Code of this Code; for provisions regarding condominium conversion, see Chapter 22.902.

Chapter 7:04

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES CODE

Sections:

Subchapter I General Provisions

- 7.04.005 Title—Citation.
- 7.04.010 Definitions generally.
- 7.04.015 Barrel.
- 7.04.020 City Sealer—Deputy Sealer.
- 7.04.025 Commodity in package form.
- 7.04.030 Consumer package—Package of consumer commodity.
- 7.04.035 Cord.
- 7.04.040 Fish.
- 7.04.045 Intrastate commerce.
- 7.04.050 Meat.
- 7.04.055 Nonconsumer package—Package of nonconsumer commodity.
- 7.04.060 Person.
- 7.04.065 Poultry.
- 7.04.070 Sell—Sale.
- 7.04.075 Ton.
- 7.04.080 Weight(s) and/or measure(s).

Subchapter II Official Standards

- 7.04.100 Systems adopted.
- 7.04.105 City standards—Examination and approval.
- 7.04.110 Working standards and equipment.

Subchapter III City Sealer

- 7.04.130 Director of Licenses and Consumer Affairs designated as City Sealer.
- 7.04.135 Powers and duties.
- 7.04.140 Official guide of City Sealer—Correct or incorrect apparatus.
- 7.04.145 General testing.
- 7.04.150 Investigations.
- 7.04.155 Inspection of packages.
- 7.04.160 Stop-use, stop-removal and removal orders.
- 7.04.165 Disposition of correct and incorrect apparatus.
- 7.04.170 Duty of owners of incorrect apparatus.
- 7.04.175 Police powers—Right of entry.

- 7.04.180 Powers and duties of Deputy Sealers.

Subchapter IV Packaging—Generally

- 7.04.200 Methods of sale—Measures, weights or counts.
- 7.04.205 Declarations of quantity and origin.
- 7.04.210 Declarations of single unit price on random packages.
- 7.04.215 Misleading packages.
- 7.04.220 Advertising packages for sale.

Subchapter V Packaging—Specifications

- 7.04.250 Subchapter applicability.
- 7.04.255 Definitions.
- 7.04.260 Declaration of identity—Contents.
- 7.04.265 Declaration of identity—Placement.
- 7.04.270 Identification of manufacturer, packer or distributor.
- 7.04.275 Declaration of quantity—Largest whole unit.
- 7.04.280 Net quantity.
- 7.04.285 Terms used to describe quantity.
- 7.04.290 Quantity in weight or measure.
- 7.04.295 Quantity in count.
- 7.04.300 Multi-unit packages.
- 7.04.305 Combination packages.
- 7.04.310 Variety packages.
- 7.04.315 Cylindrical containers.
- 7.04.320 Units of measure to be used.
- 7.04.325 Abbreviations.
- 7.04.330 Units with two or more meanings.
- 7.04.335 Quantity of less than one foot, square foot, pound, or pint.
- 7.04.340 Quantity of four or more feet, square feet, pounds, or gallons.
- 7.04.345 Weight or fluid measure—Dual quantity declaration.
- 7.04.350 Length measure—Dual quantity declaration.
- 7.04.355 Area measure—Dual quantity declaration.
- 7.04.360 Bidimensional commodities.
- 7.04.365 Count—Ply.
- 7.04.370 Reduction of fractions.
- 7.04.375 Supplementary quantity declarations.
- 7.04.380 Metric system declarations.
- 7.04.385 Average quantity at least equal to declared quantity.

- 7.04.390 Qualification of declaration prohibited.
- 7.04.395 Information to be prominent and legible.
- 7.04.400 Location of declaration of quantity.
- 7.04.405 Style of type or lettering.
- 7.04.410 Color contrast.
- 7.04.415 Free area.
- 7.04.420 Calculation of area of principal display panel for purposes of type size.
- 7.04.425 Minimum height of numbers and letters.
- 7.04.430 Packages exempt from dual quantity declaration.
- 7.04.435 Random packages.
- 7.04.440 Penny candy.
- 7.04.445 Individual servings.
- 7.04.450 Cuts, plugs, and twists of tobacco and cigars.
- 7.04.455 Reusable (returnable) glass containers.
- 7.04.460 Containers standardized by device regulation.
- 7.04.465 Packaged commodities with labeling requirements specified in federal law.
- 7.04.470 Fluid dairy products, ice cream, and similar frozen desserts.
- 7.04.475 Variations from declared net quantity.
- 7.04.480 Variations resulting from exposure.
- 7.04.485 Variations to be determined by individual cases.

Subchapter VI Sale by Net Weight

- 7.04.500 Weight defined.
- 7.04.505 Misrepresentation of price.
- 7.04.510 Meat, poultry, and seafood.
- 7.04.515 Bread.
- 7.04.520 Butter, oleomargarine, and margarine.
- 7.04.525 Fluid dairy products.
- 7.04.530 Flour, cornmeal, and hominy grits.
- 7.04.535 Bulk deliveries sold in terms of weight and delivered by vehicle.
- 7.04.540 Furnace and stove oil.
- 7.04.545 Berries and small fruits.

Subchapter VII Weighmaster License

- 7.04.565 License required.
- 7.04.570 Weighmaster license—Application, issuance and fee.
- 7.04.575 Weigher license application.
- 7.04.580 Authorization to issue certificates of weights.
- 7.04.585 Renewal of license—Late fees.
- 7.04.590 Duties of licensed City Weigher.
- 7.04.595 Seal presses.
- 7.04.600 Weighing of vehicles.
- 7.04.605 Only authorized persons to certify weights.
- 7.04.610 Revocation of appointment.
- 7.04.615 Delivery of certificate to consumer.
- 7.04.620 Alteration of weight or certificate prohibited.
- 7.04.625 Use of official tickets, certificates or statements.
- 7.04.630 Surrender of license to City Sealer.

Subchapter VIII Special Inspection Service

- 7.04.650 Request for service—Fees.

Subchapter IX Enforcement

- 7.04.675 Construction of contracts.
- 7.04.680 Hindering or obstructing City Sealer.
- 7.04.685 Impersonation of City Sealer.
- 7.04.690 Offenses and penalties.
- 7.04.695 Presumptive evidence.

Statutory Reference: For statutory provisions on weights and measures, see RCW Ch. 19.94.

Severability: If any provision of this code is declared unconstitutional, or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the constitutionality of the remainder of the code and the applicability thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby. (Ord. 98820 § 42, 1970.)

Subchapter I General Provisions

- 7.04.005 Title—Citation.

This chapter shall be known and designated as the "Weights and Measures Code," may be cited as such, and is referred to herein as "this code."

(Ord. 98820 § 1, 1970.)

7.04.01
For
out in
meaning
(Ord. 9
1970.)

7.04.01
"Bar
ferment
gallons.
(Ord. 9

7.04.02
"City
respecti
and a D
the city
(Ord. 9

7.04.02
"Con
commo
in adva
wholesa
auxiliar
that ind
this co
commo
this sec
selling
unit of
to be a
(Ord. 9

7.04.03
"Com
consum
package
distribu
or ins
individu
of pers
services
househo
possessi
(Ord. 9

7.04.03

"Com
consum
package
distribu
or ins
individu
of pers
services
househo
possessi
(Ord. 9

7.04.03
"Cor
intende
wood

7.04.03
"Cor
intende
wood

7.04.010 Definitions generally.

For the purpose of this code, the words set out in this subchapter shall have the following meanings.

(Ord. 98820 §§ 2(part), 3(part) and 4(part), 1970.)

7.04.015 Barrel.

"Barrel," when used in connection with fermented liquor, means a unit of thirty-one gallons.

(Ord. 98820 § 4(part), 1970.)

7.04.020 City Sealer—Deputy Sealer.

"City Sealer" and "Deputy Sealer" mean, respectively, a Sealer of weights and measures and a Deputy Sealer of weights and measures of the city.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(4), 1970.)

7.04.025 Commodity in package form.

"Commodity in package form" means a commodity put up or packaged in any manner in advance of sale in units suitable for either wholesale or retail sale, exclusive, however, of an auxiliary shipping container enclosing packages that individually conform to the requirements of this code. An individual item or lot of any commodity not in package form as defined in this section, but on which there is marked a selling price based on an established price per unit of weight or measure, shall be construed to be a commodity in package form.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(6), 1970.)

7.04.030 Consumer package—Package of consumer commodity.

"Consumer package" or "package of consumer commodity" means a commodity in package form that is customarily produced or distributed for sale through retail sales agencies or instrumentalities for consumption by individuals or use by individuals for the purposes of personal care or in the performance of services ordinarily rendered in or about the household or in connection with personal possessions.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(7), 1970.)

7.04.035 Cord.

"Cord," when used in connection with wood intended for fuel purposes, means the amount of wood that is contained in a space of one

hundred twenty-eight cubic feet, when the wood is ranked and well stowed.

(Ord. 98820 § 4(part), 1970.)

7.04.040 Fish.

"Fish" means any water-breathing animal, including shellfish, such as but not limited to, lobster, clam, crab or other mollusca which is prepared, processed, sold or intended or offered for sale.

(Ord. 98820 § 3(3), 1970.)

7.04.045 Intrastate commerce.

"Intrastate commerce" means any and all commerce or trade that is begun, carried on, and completed wholly within the limits of the state of Washington, and the phrase "introduced into intrastate commerce" defines the time and place at which the first sale and delivery of a commodity is made within the state, the delivery being made either directly to the purchaser or to a common carrier for shipment to the purchaser.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(5), 1970.)

7.04.050 Meat.

"Meat" means and includes all animal flesh, carcasses, or parts of animals, and shall include fish, shellfish, game, poultry, and meat food products of every kind and character, whether fresh, frozen, cooked, cured, dried, pickled or processed.

(Ord. 98820 § 3(1), 1970.)

7.04.055 Nonconsumer package—Package of nonconsumer commodity.

"Nonconsumer package" or "package of nonconsumer commodity" means any commodity in a package form other than a consumer package, and particularly a package designed solely for industrial or institutional use or for wholesale distribution only.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(8), 1970.)

7.04.060 Person.

"Person" means both the plural and singular, as the case demands, and shall include individuals, partnerships, corporations, companies, societies, and associations, and every officer, agent or employee thereof.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(1), 1970.)

7.04.065 Poultry.

"Poultry" means all fowl, domestic or wild,

CONSUMER PROTECTION

which is prepared, processed, sold or intended or offered for sale.

(Ord. 98820 § 3(2), 1970.)

7.04.070 Sell—Sale.

“Sell” and “sale” include barter and exchange.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(3), 1970.)

7.04.075 Ton.

“Ton” means a unit of two thousand pounds avoirdupois weight.

(Ord. 98820 § 4(part), 1970.)

7.04.080 Weight(s) and/or measure(s).

“Weight(s) and/or measure(s)” means all weights and measures of every kind, instruments and devices for weighing and measuring, and any appliances and accessories associated with any or all such instruments and devices, except that the term shall not be construed to include meters for the measurement of electricity, gas (natural or manufactured), or water when the same are operated in a public utility system. Such electricity, gas, and water meters are specifically excluded from the purview of this code, and none of the provisions of this code shall be construed to apply to such meters or to any appliances or accessories associated therewith.

(Ord. 98820 § 2(2), 1970.)

Subchapter II Official Standards

7.04.100 Systems adopted.

The system of weights and measures in customary use in the United States and the metric system of weights and measures are jointly recognized, and either one or both of these systems shall be used for all commercial purposes in the city. The definitions of basic units of weight and measure, the tables of weight and measure, and weights and measures equivalents, as published by the National Bureau of Standards, and recognized by the state, are recognized and shall govern weighing and measuring equipment and transactions in the city.

(Ord. 98820 § 5, 1970.)

7.04.105 City standards—Examination and approval.

Such weights and measures in conformity with the standards of the United States as have

been obtained by the city for use as city standards, shall, when the same have been examined and approved by the Director of the Department of Agriculture of the state, be the official city standards of weight and measure. The city standards shall be kept in a safe and suitable place designated by the City Sealer except for repairs or for certification, and they shall be submitted at least once every five years to the Director of the Department of Agriculture of the state for testing and approval. The official city standards shall be used only in verifying the office or field standards and for scientific purposes.

(Ord. 98820 § 6, 1970.)

7.04.110 Working standards and equipment.

In addition to the official city standards provided for in Section 7.04.105, there shall be supplied by the city such “field standards” and such equipment as may be found necessary to carry out the provisions of this code. The field standards shall be verified upon their initial receipt and at least once each year thereafter by direct comparison with the official city standards.

(Ord. 98820 § 7, 1970.)

Subchapter III City Sealer

7.04.130 Director of Licenses and Consumer Affairs designated as City Sealer.

There shall be a City Sealer of Weights and Measures, referred to in this code as the City Sealer. The Director of Licenses and Consumer Affairs shall be the City Sealer. There shall be such necessary Deputy Sealers and technical and clerical personnel, as the City Council may from time to time authorize who shall be appointed by the Director of Licenses and Consumer Affairs subject to Civil Service laws and regulations and who shall collectively comprise the Division of Weights and Measures of the Department of Licenses and Consumer Affairs.

(Ord. 102635 § 1, 1973; Ord. 98820 § 8, 1970.)

7.04.135 Powers and duties.

The City Sealer shall have the custody of the city standards of weight and measure and of the other standards and equipment provided for by this code, and shall keep accurate records of the same. The City Sealer shall enforce the provisions of this code and of the State Weights

and Measures Act (RCW Chapter 19.94). He shall have and keep a general supervision over the weights and measures offered for sale, sold, or in use in the city. He may establish rules and regulations consistent with this code for enforcing and carrying out the provisions of this code.

(Ord. 98820 § 9, 1970.)

**7.04.140 Official guide of City Sealer—
Correct or incorrect apparatus.**

The City Sealer shall use as his official guide in the enforcement of this code the specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for commercial weighing and measuring devices as adopted by the National Conference on Weights and Measures and published in the National Bureau of Standards Handbook 44, and supplements thereto and revisions thereof. For the purpose of this code, apparatus shall be deemed to be "correct" when it conforms to all such applicable specifications, tolerances, and regulations; other apparatus shall be deemed to be "incorrect." (Ord. 100903 § 1, 1972; Ord. 98820 § 10, 1970.)

7.04.145 General testing.

When not otherwise provided by law, the City Sealer shall have the power to inspect and test, to ascertain if they are correct, all weights and measures kept, offered, or exposed for sale. It shall be the duty of the City Sealer to inspect and test, to ascertain if they are correct, all weights and measures commercially used as often as necessary to secure compliance with this code. This shall include but not be limited to commercial use: (A) in determining the weight, measurement, or count of commodities or things sold, or offered or exposed for sale, on the basis of weight or of measure, (B) in computing the basic charge or payment for services rendered on the basis of weight or measure, or (C) in determining weight or measurement when a charge is made for such determination: Provided, that with respect to single-service devices, that is, devices designed to be used commercially only once and to be then discarded, and with respect to devices uniformly mass-produced, as by means of a mold or die, and not susceptible of individual adjustment, the inspection and testing of each individual device shall not be required and the inspecting and testing requirements of this

section will be satisfied when inspections and tests are made on representative sample lots of such devices; and the larger lots of which such sample lots are representative shall be held to be correct or incorrect upon the basis of the results of the inspections and tests on such sample lots. (Ord. 98820 § 11, 1970.)

7.04.150 Investigations.

The City Sealer shall investigate complaints made to him concerning violations of this code, and shall, upon his own initiative, conduct such investigations as he deems appropriate and advisable to develop information on prevailing procedures in commercial quantity determinations and on possible violations of the provisions of this code and to promote the general objective of accuracy on the determination and representation of quantity in commercial transactions.

(Ord. 98820 § 12, 1970.)

7.04.155 Inspection of packages.

The City Sealer shall, from time to time, weigh or measure and inspect packages or amounts of commodities kept, offered, or exposed for sale, sold, or in the process of delivery, to determine whether the same contain the amounts represented and whether they be kept, offered, or exposed for sale, or sold, in accordance with law; and when such packages or amounts of commodities are found not to contain the amounts represented or are found to be kept, offered, or exposed for sale, or sold in violation of law, the City Sealer may order them off sale and may mark or stamp them in a manner as to show them to be "illegal." In carrying out the provisions of this section, the City Sealer may employ recognized sampling procedures under which the compliance of a given lot of packages will be determined on the basis of the result obtained on a sample selected from and representative of such lot. No person shall: (A) sell, or keep, offer, or expose for sale any package or amount of commodity that has been ordered off sale as provided in this section unless and until such package or amount of commodity has been brought into full compliance with legal requirements, or (B) dispose of any package or amount of commodity that has been ordered off sale and that has not been brought into compliance with legal requirements, in any

CONSUMER PROTECTION

manner except with the specific approval of the City Sealer.
(Ord. 98820 § 13, 1970.)

7.04.160 Stop-use, stop-removal, and removal orders.

The City Sealer shall have the power to issue stop-use orders, stop-removal orders, and removal orders with respect to weights and measures being, or susceptible of being, commercially used, and to issue stop-removal orders and removal orders with respect to packages or amounts of commodities kept, offered, or exposed for sale, sold, or in process of delivery, whenever in the course of his enforcement of the provisions of this code he deems it necessary or expedient to issue such orders. No person shall use, remove from the premises specified, or fail to remove from the premises specified, any weight, measure, or package or amount of commodity contrary to the terms of a stop-use order, stop-removal order, or removal order issued under the authority of this section.
(Ord. 98820 § 14, 1970.)

7.04.165 Disposition of correct and incorrect apparatus.

The City Sealer shall approve for use and seal or mark with appropriate devices such weights and measures as he finds upon inspection and test to be "correct" as defined in Section 7.04.140, and shall reject and mark or tag as "rejected" such weights and measures as he finds, upon inspection or test, to be "incorrect" as defined in Section 7.04.140, but which in his best judgment are susceptible of satisfactory repair: Provided, that the sealing or marking requirements of this section shall not be required with respect to such weights and measures as have been exempted by regulation of the City Sealer on the basis that such sealing or marking would be inappropriate, impracticable, or damaging to the apparatus in question. The City Sealer shall condemn, and may seize and may destroy, weights and measures found to be incorrect that in his best judgment are not susceptible of satisfactory repair. Weights and measures that have been rejected may be confiscated and may be destroyed by the City Sealer if not corrected as required by Section 7.04.170 or if used or

disposed of contrary to the requirements of Section 7.04.170.
(Ord. 98820 § 15, 1970.)

7.04.170 Duty of owners of incorrect apparatus.

Weights and measures that have been rejected under the authority of the City Sealer or a Deputy Sealer shall remain subject to the control of the rejecting authority until such time as suitable repair or disposition thereof has been made as required by this section. The owners of such rejected weights and measures shall cause the same to be made correct within ten days or such longer period as may be authorized by the rejecting authority; or, in lieu thereof, may dispose of the same, but only in such manner as is specifically authorized by the rejecting authority. Weights and measures that have been rejected shall not again be used commercially until they have been officially reexamined and found to be correct or until specific written permission for such use is issued by the rejecting authority.
(Ord. 98820 § 16, 1970.)

7.04.175 Police powers - Right of entry.

With respect to the enforcement of this code and any other law dealing with weights and measures that he is, or may be empowered to enforce, the City Sealer is vested with the powers of a special policeman, and is authorized to arrest any violator of the code and to seize for use as evidence incorrect or unsealed weights and measures or amounts or packages or commodity, used, retained, offered or exposed for sale, or sold in violation of law. Upon presentation of proper credentials, the City Sealer is authorized with the consent of the occupant or pursuant to a lawfully issued warrant at reasonable times during the normal business hours of the person using the weights and measures to enter into or upon any structure or premises where weights and measures are used or kept for commercial purposes for the purpose of performing any duty imposed upon him by this code.
(Ord. 98820 § 17, 1970.)

7.04.180 Powers and duties of Deputy Sealers.

The powers and duties given to and imposed upon the City Sealer by Sections 7.04.140 through 7.04.165 and 7.04.175 are given to and imposed upon the Deputy Sealers also, when

Seattle Municipal Code
As Adopted 1980
For Official Use Only
Contact
City Office

acting
direct
(Ord.

7.04.2

Con
by liq
other
not in
by m
Provid
by we
may b
accura
comm
the pr
(A) to
consur
vegeta
(C) to
contai
by fed
form v
to exp
(E) to
and le
gravel,
cubic
and a
measu
(Ord.

7.04.2

Exc
any co
deliver
intrastr
sale, o
comm
packag
declara
comm
easily
contai
in terr
in the
expose
on the
place o

acting under the instructions and at the direction of the City Sealer.
(Ord. 98820 § 18, 1970.)

Subchapter IV Packaging – Generally

7.04.200 Methods of sale—Measures, weights or counts.

Commodities in liquid form shall be sold only by liquid measure or by weight, and, except as otherwise provided in this code, commodities not in liquid form shall be sold only by weight, by measure of length or area, or by count: Provided, that liquid commodities may be sold by weight and commodities not in liquid form may be sold by count only if such methods give accurate information as to the quantity of commodity sold: And provided further, that the provisions of this section shall not apply: (A) to commodities when sold for immediate consumption on the premises where sold, (B) to vegetables when sold by the head or bunch, (C) to commodities when in package form or in containers standardized by a law of the state or by federal law, (D) to commodities in package form when there exists a general consumer usage to express the quantity in some other manner, (E) to concrete aggregates, concrete mixtures, and loose solid materials such as earth, soil, gravel, crushed stone, and the like, when sold by cubic measure, or (F) to unprocessed vegetable and animal fertilizer when sold by cubic measure.

(Ord. 98820 § 19, 1970.)

7.04.205 Declarations of quantity and origin.

Except as otherwise provided in this code, any commodity in package form introduced or delivered for introduction into or received in intrastate commerce, kept for the purpose of sale, or offered or exposed for sale in intrastate commerce, shall bear on the outside of the package definite, plain, and conspicuous declarations of: (A) the identity of the commodity in the package unless the same can easily be identified through the wrapper or container, (B) the net quantity of the contents in terms of weight, measure, or count, and (C) in the case of any package kept, offered, or exposed for sale, or sold, any place other than on the premises where packed, the name and place of business of the manufacturer, packer, or

distributor: Provided, that in connection with the declaration required under clause (B), neither the qualifying term "when packed" or any words of similar import, nor any term qualifying a unit of weight, measure, or count (for example, "jumbo," "giant," "full," and the like) that tends to exaggerate the amount of commodity in a package, shall be used.
(Ord. 98820 § 20, 1970.)

Cases: An ordinance requiring the true net weight or measure of commodities sold in containers to be stamped or printed on the container is within the city's police power. *Seattle v. Goldsmith*, 73 Wn. 54, 131 P. 456 (1913).

A special contract for the sale of certain articles in bulk by gross weight does not violate an ordinance which generally prohibits such sales, so long as the vendee is not overreached or deceived. *Seattle v. Yokum*, 94 Wn. 194, 162 P.2d 56 (1917).

7.04.210 Declarations of single unit price on random packages.

In addition to the declarations required by Section 7.04.205, any commodity in package form, the package being one of a lot containing random weights, measures, or counts of the same commodity and bearing the total selling price of the package, shall bear on the outside of the package a plain and conspicuous declaration of the price per single unit of weight, measure, or count.

(Ord. 98820 § 21, 1970.)

7.04.215 Misleading packages.

No commodity in package form shall be so wrapped, nor shall it be in a container so made, formed, or filled, as to mislead the purchaser as to the quantity of the contents of the package.
(Ord. 98820 § 22, 1970.)

7.04.220 Advertising packages for sale.

Whenever a commodity in package form is advertised in any manner and the retail price of the package is stated in the advertisement, there shall be closely and conspicuously associated with such statement of price a declaration of the basic quantity of contents of the package as is required by law or regulation to appear on the package: Provided, that where the law or regulation requires a dual declaration of net quantity to appear on the package, only the declaration that sets forth the quantity in terms of the smaller unit of weight or measure (the declaration that is required to appear first and without parentheses on the package) need

CONSUMER PROTECTION

appear in the advertisement: And provided further, that there shall not be included as part of the declaration required under this section such qualifying terms as "when packed," "minimum," "not less than," or any other terms of similar import, nor any term qualifying a unit of weight, measure, or count (for example, "jumbo," "giant," "full," and the like) that tends to exaggerate the amount of commodity in the package.

(Ord. 98820 § 23, 1970.)

Subchapter V Packaging – Specifications

7.04.250 Subchapter applicability.

This subchapter shall apply to commodities in package form except those:

A. In inner wrappings not intended to be individually sold to the consumer;

B. In auxiliary containers not intended to be sold to the consumer intact, bearing no printed matter pertaining to any commodity, and enclosing packages that are individually marked in conformance with the requirements of this subchapter;

C. In containers used for retail tray pack displays when the container is not intended to be sold; or

D. Commodities put up in variable weights and sizes for sale intact and intended to be either weighed or measured at the time of sale, where no package quantities are represented, and where the method of sale is clearly indicated in close proximity to the quantity being sold; or

E. Open carriers and transparent wrappers or carriers for containers when the wrappers or carriers do not bear any written, printed, or graphic matter obscuring the label information required by this code.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(part), 1970.)

7.04.255 Definitions.

A. "Label" means any written, printed, or graphic matter affixed to, applied to, attached to, blown into, formed, molded into, embossed on, or appearing upon or adjacent to a consumer commodity or a package containing any consumer commodity, for purposes of branding, identifying, or giving any information with respect to the commodity or to the contents of the package.

B. "Multi-unit package" means a package containing two or more individual packages of

the same commodity, in the same quantity, with the individual packages intended to be sold as part of the multi-unit package but capable of being individually sold in full compliance with all requirements of this code.

C. "Package" means any container or wrapper in which any commodity is enclosed for use in the delivery or display for sale of that commodity, but does not include shipping containers or wrappers used solely for the transportation of any such commodity in bulk or in quantity to manufacturers, processors, or distributors.

D. "Principal display panel or panels" means that part, or those parts, of a label that is, or are, so designed as to be most likely to be displayed, presented, shown, or examined under normal and customary conditions of display and purchase. Wherever a principal display panel appears more than once on a package, all requirements pertaining to the principal display panel shall pertain to all such principal display panels.

E. "Random package" means a package that is one of a lot, shipment, or delivery of packages of the same consumer commodity with varying weights; that is, packages of the same consumer commodity with no fixed pattern of weight.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(A), 1970.)

7.04.260 Declaration of identity—Contents.

A declaration of identity shall appear on the principal display panel and shall positively identify the commodity in the package by its common or usual name, description, generic term, or the like.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(B) (part), 1970.)

7.04.265 Declaration of identity—Placement.

A declaration of identity shall appear generally parallel to the base on which the package rests as it is designed to be displayed.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(B)(1), 1970.)

7.04.270 Identification of manufacturer, packer or distributor.

A. Any package kept, offered, or exposed for sale, or sold, at any place other than on the premises where packed shall specify conspicuously on the label of the package the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, or distributor. The name shall be the actual corporate name, or, when not incorporated, the name under which the business is conducted.

The address shall include street address, city, state, and ZIP Code; however, the street address may be omitted if this is shown in a current city directory or telephone directory. The requirement for inclusion of the ZIP Code shall apply only to labels that have been developed or revised after July 1, 1968.

B. If a person manufactures, packs, or distributes a commodity at a place other than his principal place of business, the label may state the principal place of business in lieu of the actual place where the commodity was manufactured or packed or is to be distributed, unless such statement would be misleading. Where the commodity is not manufactured by the person whose name appears on the label, the name shall be qualified by a phrase that reveals the connection such person has with such commodity, such as "Manufactured for and packed by," "Distributed by," or any other wording of similar import that expresses the facts. (Ord. 98820 § 24(C), 1970.)

7.04.275 Declaration of quantity—Largest whole unit.

Where this subchapter requires that the quantity declaration be in terms of the largest whole unit, the declaration shall, with respect to a particular package, be in terms of the largest whole unit of weight or measure, with any remainder expressed in:

A. Common or decimal fractions of such largest whole unit; or in

B. The next smaller whole unit, or units, with any further remainder in terms of common or decimal fractions of the smallest unit present in the quantity declaration.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(1), 1970.)

7.04.280 Net quantity.

The principal display panel of the package shall bear a declaration of the net quantity of the commodity in the package exclusive of wrappers and any other material packed with such commodity: Provided, that the declaration of quantity on an aerosol package shall disclose the net quantity of the commodity (including propellant) that will be expelled when the instructions for use as shown on the container are followed: And provided further, that the term "net weight" shall be used when stating the net quantity of contents in terms of weight: And provided further, that a quantity

declaration may appear on more than one line of print or type.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(2), 1970.)

7.04.285 Terms used to describe quantity.

The declaration of the quantity of a particular commodity shall be expressed in such terms of weight, measure, or count, or a combination of count and weight, measure, or size, as have been firmly established in general consumer usage and trade custom and as give accurate and adequate information as to the quantity of the commodity: Provided, that if there exists no firmly established general consumer usage and trade custom with respect to the terms used in expressing such declaration of quantity, the declaration shall be in terms of liquid measure if the commodity is liquid, or in terms of weight if the commodity is solid, semisolid, viscous, or a mixture of solid and liquid: And provided further, that if the commodity is packaged in an aerosol container, the declaration shall be in terms of weight (including the propellant). (Ord. 98820 § 24 (D)(3), 1970.)

7.04.290 Quantity in weight or measure.

A declaration of quantity in terms of weight or measure shall be accompanied by a declaration of the count or size of the individual units of the commodity, unless the declaration of weight or measure alone is fully informative to the consumer. Such declaration shall appear on the principal display panel.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(3)(1), 1970.)

7.04.295 Quantity in count.

A declaration of quantity in terms of count shall be supplemented by a declaration of the weight, measure, or size of the individual units of the commodity, or of the total weight or measure of the commodity, unless a declaration of count alone is fully informative to the consumer. Such declaration shall appear on the principal display panel.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(3)(2), 1970.)

7.04.300 Multi-unit packages.

A. Any package containing more than one individual commodity in package form of the same commodity shall bear on the outside of the package a declaration of:

1. The number of individual units;
2. The quantity of each individual unit;

and

CONSUMER PROTECTION

3. The total quantity of the contents of the multi-unit package: Provided, that the requirement for a declaration of the total quantity of contents of a multi-unit package shall be effective with respect to those labels revised after January 1, 1970. Any such declaration of total quantity shall not be required to include the parenthetical quantity statement of a dual quantity representation.

B. Whenever the quantity declaration appearing on individual units of a multi-unit package is located other than in the lower thirty percent of the principal display panel, the individual units of that multi-unit package may not be separately sold.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(3)(3), 1970.)

7.04.305 Combination packages.

Any package containing individual units of dissimilar commodities (such as an antiquing kit, for example) shall bear on the label of the package a quantity declaration for each unit.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(3)(4), 1970.)

7.04.310 Variety packages.

Any package containing individual units of reasonably similar commodities (such as, for example, seasonal gift packages, variety packages of cereal) shall bear on the label of the package a declaration of the total quantity of commodity in the package.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(3)(5), 1970.)

7.04.315 Cylindrical containers.

In the case of cylindrical or nearly cylindrical containers, information required to appear on the principal display panel shall appear within that forty percent of the circumference which is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown, or examined under customary conditions of display for retail sale.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(3)(6), 1970.)

7.04.320 Units of measure to be used.

A declaration of quantity:

A. In units of weight, shall be in terms of the avoirdupois pound or ounce;

B. In units of liquid measure, shall be in terms of the United States gallon of two hundred thirty-one cubic inches or liquid-quart, liquid-pint, or fluid-ounce subdivisions of the gallon, and shall express the volume at sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit (twenty degrees Centigrade), except in the case of petroleum

products, for which the declaration shall express the volume at sixty degrees Fahrenheit (15.6 degrees Centigrade), and except also in the case of a commodity that is normally sold and consumed while frozen, for which the declaration shall express the volume at the frozen temperature, and except also in the case of a commodity that is normally sold in the refrigerated state, for which the declaration shall express the volume at forty degrees Fahrenheit (four degrees Centigrade);

C. In units of linear measure, shall be in terms of the yard, foot, or inch;

D. In units of area measure, shall be in terms of the square yard, square foot, or square inch;

E. In units of dry measure, shall be in terms of the United States bushel of 2,150.42 cubic inches, or peck, dry-quart, and dry-pint subdivisions of the bushel;

F. In units of cubic measure shall be in terms of the cubic yard, cubic foot, or cubic inch:

Provided, that in the case of drugs, in lieu of any requirement to the contrary, the declaration of quantity may be in terms of a unit of the metric system of weight or measure: And provided further, that in the case of a commodity packed for export shipment, the declaration of quantity may be in terms of a system of weight or measure in common use in the country to which such shipment is to be exported: And provided further, that when packages of fluid dairy products and packages of ice cream and similar frozen desserts are put up for sale in quantities of eight, sixteen, thirty-two or sixty-four fluid ounces, the quantity declaration may be expressed as "1/2 pint," "1 pint," "1 quart," "1/2 gallon," "1 gallon," respectively.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(4) (part), 1970.)

7.04.325 Abbreviations.

Any of the following abbreviations, and none other, may be employed in the quantity statement of a commodity or package of commodity:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------|--------|----|--------------|-----|
| avoirdupois | avdp | ounce | oz | cubic centi- | |
| cubic | cu | pint | pt | meter | cc |
| feet or foot | ft | pound | lb | gram | g |
| fluid | fl | quart | qt | kilogram | kg |
| gallon | gal | square | sq | microgram | mcg |
| inch | in | weight | wt | milligram | mg |
| liquid | liq | yard | yd | milliliter | ml |

(There normally are no periods following, nor plural forms of, these abbreviations. For example, the abbreviation is "oz" for both "ounce" and "ounces.")
(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(4)(1), 1970.)

7.04.330 Units with two or more meanings.

When the term "ounce" is employed in a declaration of liquid quantity, the declaration shall identify the particular meaning of the term by the use of the term "fluid"; however, such distinction may be omitted when, by association of terms (for example, as in 1 pint 4 ounces), the proper meaning is obvious. Whenever the declaration of quantity is in terms of the dry pint or dry quart, the declaration shall include the word "dry."
(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(5), 1970.)

7.04.335 Quantity of less than one foot, square foot, pound, or pint.

The declaration of quantity shall be expressed in terms of:

A. In the case of length measure of less than one foot, inches and fractions of inches;

B. In the case of area measure of less than one square foot, square inches and fractions of square inches;

C. In the case of weight or fluid measure of less than one pound or one pint, ounces and fractions of ounces;
Provided, that the quantity declaration appearing on a random package may be expressed in terms of decimal fractions of the largest appropriate unit, the fraction being carried out to not more than two decimal places.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(6)(1), 1970.)

7.04.340 Quantity of four or more feet, square feet, pounds, or gallons.

In the case of:

A. Length measure of four feet or more;

B. Area measure of four square feet or more; and

C. Weight or fluid measure of four pounds or more, or one gallon or more;
the declaration of quantity shall be expressed in terms of the largest whole unit.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(6)(2), 1970.)

7.04.345 Weight or fluid measure—Dual quantity declaration.

On packages containing one pound or more but less than four pounds, or one pint or more

but less than one gallon, the declaration shall be expressed in ounces and, in addition, shall be followed by a declaration, presented in parentheses, in terms of the largest whole unit: Provided, that the quantity declaration appearing on a random package may be expressed in terms of pounds and decimal fractions of the pound carried out to not more than two decimal places.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(6)(3), 1970.)

7.04.350 Length measure—Dual quantity declaration.

On packages containing one foot or more but less than four feet, the declaration shall be expressed in inches and, in addition, shall be followed in parentheses by a declaration expressed in terms of the largest whole unit: Provided, that the quantity declaration appearing on a random package may be expressed in terms of feet and decimal fractions of the foot carried out to not more than two decimal places.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(6)(4), 1970.)

7.04.355 Area measure—Dual quantity declaration.

On packages containing one square foot or more but less than four square feet, the declaration shall be expressed in square inches and, in addition, shall be followed in parentheses by a declaration expressed in terms of the largest whole unit: Provided, that the quantity declaration appearing on a random package may be expressed in terms of square feet and decimal fractions of the square foot carried out to not more than two decimal places.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(6)(5), 1970.)

7.04.360 Bidimensional commodities.

For bidimensional commodities (including roll-type commodities) the quantity declaration shall be expressed:

A. If less than one square foot, in terms of linear inches and fractions of linear inches;

B. If at least one square foot but less than four square feet, in terms of square inches followed in parentheses by a declaration of both the length and width, each being in terms of the largest whole unit: Provided, that:

1. No square-inch declaration is required for a bidimensional commodity of four inches width or less, and

2. A dimension of less than two feet may be stated in inches within the parenthetical, and

3. Commodities consisting of usable individual units (except roll-type commodities with individual usable units created by perforations, for which see Section 7.04.365) require a declaration of unit area but not a declaration of total area of all such units;

C. If four square feet or more, in terms of square feet followed in parentheses by a declaration of the length and width in terms of the largest whole units: Provided, that:

1. No declaration in square feet is required for a bidimensional commodity with a width of four inches or less,

2. A dimension of less than two feet may be stated in inches within the parenthetical, and

3. No declaration in square feet is required for commodities for which the length and width measurements are critical in terms of end use (such as tablecloths or bedsheets) if such commodities clearly present the length and width measurements on the label.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(6)(6), 1970.)

7.04.365 Count—Ply.

A. If the commodity is in individually usable units of one or more components or ply, the quantity declaration shall, in addition to complying with other applicable quantity declaration requirements of this subchapter, include the number of ply and the total number of usable units.

B. Roll-type commodities, when perforated so as to identify individual usable units, shall not be deemed to be made up of usable units; however, such roll-type commodities shall be labeled in terms of:

1. Total area measurement; and
2. Number of ply;
3. Count of usable units; and
4. Dimensions of a single usable unit.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(6)(7), 1970.)

7.04.370 Reduction of fractions.

Fractions employed in declarations of quantity may be either common fractions or decimal fractions. A common fraction shall be in terms of halves, quarters, eighths, sixteenths, or thirty-seconds, and shall be reduced to its lowest terms. A decimal fraction shall not be carried out to more than two places: Provided, that, if there exists with respect to a particular commodity a firmly established general consumer usage and trade custom con-

trary to the requirement pertaining to common fractions, as set forth in this section, for the reduction of a common fraction to its lowest terms, the declaration may be made in accordance with such usage and custom: And provided further, that, in the case of drugs, a decimal fraction may be carried out to three places.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(7), 1970.)

7.04.375 Supplementary quantity declarations.

The required quantity declaration may be supplemented by one or more declarations of weight, measure, or count, such as declarations appearing other than on a principal display panel. Such supplemental statement of quantity of contents shall not include any terms qualifying a unit of weight, measure, or count that tends to exaggerate the amount of commodity contained in the package (e.g., "giant" quart, "full" gallon, "when packed," "minimum," or words of similar import).
(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(8)(1), 1970.)

7.04.380 Metric system declarations.

A separate statement of the net quantity of contents in terms of the metric system is not regarded as a supplemental statement, and a statement of quantity in terms of the metric system of weight or measure may also appear on the principal display panel or on other panels.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(8)(2), 1970.)

7.04.385 Average quantity at least equal to declared quantity.

The average quantity of contents in the packages of a particular lot, shipment or delivery shall at least equal the declared quantity, and no unreasonable shortage in any package shall be permitted, even though overages in other packages in the same shipment, delivery or lot compensate for such shortage.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(9), 1970.)

7.04.390 Qualification of declaration prohibited.

In no case shall any declaration of quantity be qualified by the addition of the words "when packed," "minimum," or "not less than," or any words of similar import, nor shall any unit of weight, measure, or count be qualified by any term (such as "jumbo," "giant," "full," or

the like) that tends to exaggerate the amount of commodity.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(D)(10), 1970.)

7.04.395 Information to be prominent and legible.

All information required to appear on a consumer package shall appear thereon in the English language and shall be prominent, definite, and plain, and shall be conspicuous as to size and style of letters and numbers and as to color of letters and numbers in contrast to color of background. Any required information that is either in hand lettering or hand script shall be entirely clear and equal to printing in legibility.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(E)(1), 1970.)

7.04.400 Location of declaration of quantity.

The declaration or declarations of quantity of the contents of a package shall appear in the bottom thirty percent of the principal display panel or panels, except as otherwise provided in Section 7.04.315.

(Ord. 98820 § 24 (E)(1)(1), 1970.)

7.04.405 Style of type or lettering.

The declaration or declarations of quantity shall be in such a style of type or lettering as to be boldly, clearly, and conspicuously presented with respect to other type, lettering, or graphic material on the package, except that a declaration of net quantity blown, formed, or molded on a glass or plastic surface is permissible when all label information is blown, formed, or molded on the surface.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(E)(1)(2), 1970.)

7.04.410 Color contrast.

The declaration or declarations of quantity shall be in a color that contrasts conspicuously with its background, except that a declaration of net quantity blown, formed, or molded on a glass or plastic surface shall not be required to be presented in a contrasting color if no required label information is on the surface in a contrasting color.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(E)(1)(3), 1970.)

7.04.415 Free area.

The area surrounding the quantity declaration shall be free of printed information:

A. Above and below, by a space equal to at least the height of the lettering in the declaration; and

B. To the left and right, by a space equal to twice the width of the letter "N" of the style and size of type used in the declaration.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(E)(1)(4), 1970.)

7.04.420 Calculation of area of principal display panel for purposes of type size.

A. The square-inch area of the principal display panel shall be:

1. In the case of a rectangular container, one entire side which properly can be considered to be the principal display panel, the product of the height times the width of that side;

2. In the case of a cylindrical or nearly cylindrical container, forty percent of the product of the height of the container times the circumference; or

3. In the case of any other shaped container, forty percent of the total surface of the container, unless such container presents an obvious principal display panel (e.g., the top of a triangular or circular package of cheese, or the top of a can of shoe polish), the area shall consist of the entire such surface.

B. Determination of the principal display panel shall exclude tops, bottoms, flanges at tops and bottoms of cans, and shoulders and necks of bottles or jars.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(E)(2) (part), 1970.)

7.04.425 Minimum height of numbers and letters.

The height of any letter or number in the required quantity declaration shall be not less than that shown in Table 1 with respect to the square-inch area of the panel, and the height of each number of a common fraction shall meet one-half the minimum height standards.

TABLE 1
Minimum Height of Numbers and Letters

| Square-inch area of principal display panel | Minimum height of numbers and letters | Minimum height; label information blown, formed, or molded into surface of container |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 5 square inches and less | 1/16 inch | 1/8 inch |
| Greater than 5 square inches and not greater than 25 square inches | 1/8 inch | 3/16 inch |
| Greater than 25 square inches and not greater than 100 square inches | 3/16 inch | 1/4 inch |
| Greater than 100 square inches and not greater than 400 square inches | 1/4 inch | 5/16 inch |
| Greater than 400 square inches | 1/2 inch | 9/16 inch |

(Ord. 98820 § 24(E)(2)(1), 1970.)

7.04.430 Packages exempt from dual quantity declaration.

Whenever any consumer commodity or package of consumer commodity is exempted from the requirements for dual quantity declaration, the net quantity declaration required to appear on the package shall be in terms of the largest whole unit.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(1), 1970.)

7.04.435 Random packages.

A random package bearing a label conspicuously declaring:

- A. The net weight;
- B. The price per pound; and
- C. The total price;

shall be exempt from the type size, dual declaration, placement, and free area requirements of this regulation. In the case of a random package of food packed at one place for subsequent sale at another, neither the price per unit of weight nor the total selling price need appear on the package, provided the package label includes both such prices at the time it is offered or exposed for sale at retail.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(2), 1970.)

7.04.440 Penny candy.

When individually wrapped pieces of "penny candy" or individually wrapped pieces of candy

of less than one-half ounce net weight are shipped or delivered in containers that conform to the labeling requirements of this subchapter, such individual pieces shall be exempt from such labeling requirements.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(3), 1970.)

7.04.445 Individual servings.

Individual-serving-size packages of foods containing less than one-half ounce or less than one-half fluid ounce for use in restaurants, institutions, and passenger carriers, and not intended for sale at retail, shall be exempt from the required declaration of net quantity of contents specified in this subchapter.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(4), 1970.)

7.04.450 Cuts, plugs, and twists of tobacco and cigars.

When individual cuts, plugs, and twists of tobacco and individual cigars are shipped or delivered in containers that conform to the labeling requirements of this subchapter, such individual cuts, plugs, and twists of tobacco and cigars shall be exempt from such labeling requirements.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(5), 1970.)

7.04.455 Reusable (returnable) glass containers.

Nothing in this subchapter shall be deemed to preclude the continued use of reusable (returnable) glass containers: Provided, that such glass containers ordered after the effective date of this code¹ shall conform to all requirements of this subchapter.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(6), 1970.)

1. Editor's Note: The Weights and Measures Code adopted by Ord. 98820 became effective May 17, 1970.

7.04.460 Containers standardized by device regulation.

Containers such as milk bottles, lubricating-oil bottles, and measure-containers, for which standards are established and specifications are set forth in National Bureau of Standards Handbook 44, "Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Commercial Weighing and Measuring Devices," shall be exempt from the requirements as set forth in Sections 7.04.395 through 7.04.425.

(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(7), 1970.)

7.04.465 Packaged commodities with labeling requirements specified in federal law.

Packages of meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, tobacco and tobacco products, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, prescription drugs, alcoholic beverages, and seeds shall be exempt from the requirements set forth in Sections 7.04.275 through 7.04.425: Provided, that quantity labeling requirements for such products are specified in federal law or regulations issued pursuant to federal law, so as to follow reasonably sound principles of providing consumer information.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(8), 1970.)

7.04.470 Fluid dairy products, ice cream, and similar frozen desserts.

When packages of fluid dairy products and packages of ice cream and similar frozen desserts are standardized by law or regulation of the state, such packages shall be exempt from the requirements in this subchapter for Sections 7.04.345 and 7.04.400.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(F)(9), 1970.)

7.04.475 Variations from declared net quantity.

Variations from the declared net weight, measure, or count shall be permitted when caused by unavoidable deviations in weighing, measuring, or counting the contents of individual packages that occur in good packaging practice, but such variations shall not be permitted to such extent that the average of the quantities in the packages of a particular commodity comprising either a shipment or other delivery of the commodity, or a lot of the commodity that is kept, offered, or exposed for sale, or sold, is below the quantity stated, and no unreasonable shortage in any package shall be permitted, even though overages in other packages in the same shipment, delivery, or lot compensate for such shortage. Variations above the declared quantity shall not be unreasonably large.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(G)(1)(1), 1970.)

7.04.480 Variations resulting from exposure.

Variations from the declared weight or measure shall be permitted when caused by ordinary and customary exposure to conditions that normally occur in good distribution practice and that unavoidably result in change of weight

or measure, but only after the commodity is introduced into intrastate commerce: Provided, that the phrase "introduced into intrastate commerce" as used in this section shall be construed to define the time and the place at which the first sale and delivery of a package is made within the state, the delivery being either:

A. Directly to the purchaser or to his agent; or

B. To a common carrier for shipment to the purchaser; and this paragraph shall be construed as requiring that, so long as a shipment, delivery, or lot of packages of a particular commodity remains in the possession or under the control of the packager or the person who introduces the package into intrastate commerce, exposure variations shall not be permitted.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(G)(1)(2), 1970.)

7.04.485 Variations to be determined by individual cases.

The magnitude of variations permitted under Sections 7.04.475 and 7.04.480 shall, in the case of any shipment, delivery, or lot, be determined by the facts in the individual case.
(Ord. 98820 § 24(G)(2), 1970.)

Subchapter VI Sale by Net Weight

7.04.500 Weight defined.

"Weight," as used in this code in connection with any commodity, shall mean net weight. Whenever any commodity is sold on the basis of weight, the net weight of the commodity shall be employed, and all contracts concerning commodities shall be so construed.
(Ord. 98820 § 25, 1970.)

7.04.505 Misrepresentation of price.

Whenever any commodity or service is sold, or is offered, exposed, or advertised for sale, by weight, measure, or count, the price shall not be misrepresented, nor shall the price be represented in any manner calculated or tending to mislead or deceive an actual or prospective purchaser. Whenever an advertised, posted, or labeled price per unit of weight, measure, or count includes a fraction of a cent, all elements of the fraction shall be prominently displayed and the numeral or numerals expressing the fraction shall be immediately adjacent to, of the same general design and style as, and at least

CONSUMER PROTECTION

one-half the height and width of the numerals representing the whole cents.
(Ord. 98820 § 26, 1970.)

7.04.510 Meat, poultry, and seafood.

Except for immediate consumption on the premises where sold, or as one of several elements comprising a ready-to-eat meal sold, as a unit, for consumption elsewhere than on the premises where sold, all meat, meat products, poultry (whole or parts), and all seafood including shellfish, offered or exposed for sale or sold as food, shall be offered or exposed for sale and sold by weight. When meat, poultry, or seafood is combined with or associated with some other food element or elements to form either a distinctive food product or a food combination, such food product or combination shall be offered or exposed for sale and sold by weight.
(Ord. 98820 § 27, 1970.)

7.04.515 Bread.

No person shall manufacture for sale, sell or offer or expose for sale, any bread except in the following weights, which shall be the net weight at least twelve hours after baking: "standard small loaf," which shall weigh not less than fifteen ounces and not more than seventeen ounces; "standard large loaf," which shall weigh not less than twenty-two and one-half ounces and not more than twenty-five and one-half ounces; or multiples of the foregoing weights for the standard small loaf and standard large loaf: Provided, that variations at the rate of one ounce over and one ounce under the foregoing, per standard small loaf, or one and one-half ounce over or under the foregoing, per standard large loaf, or any multiple of the foregoing variations per each multiple type loaf, in the above specified unit weights are permitted in individual loaves, but the average weight of not less than twelve loaves of any kind of loaf shall not be less than the weight prescribed in this section. It shall be unlawful to sell or expose for sale bread in a loaf of such form that it has the appearance and size of a loaf of greater weight.
(Ord. 98820 § 28, 1970.)

7.04.520 Butter, oleomargarine, and margarine.

Butter, oleomargarine, and margarine shall be offered and exposed for sale and sold by weight, and only in units of one-quarter pound,

one-half pound, one pound, or multiples of one pound, avoirdupois weight.
(Ord. 98820 § 29, 1970.)

7.04.525 Fluid dairy products.

All fluid dairy products, including but not limited to whole milk, skimmed milk, cultured milk, sweet cream, sour cream, and buttermilk, shall be packaged for retail sale only in units of one gill, one-half liquid pint, ten fluid ounces, one liquid pint, one liquid quart, one-half gallon, one gallon, one and one-half gallons, two gallons, two and one-half gallons, or multiples of one gallon: Provided, that packages in units of less than one gill shall be permitted.
(Ord. 98820 § 30, 1970.)

7.04.530 Flour, cornmeal, and hominy grits.

When in package form, and when packed, kept, offered, or exposed for sale or sold, wheat flour, whole wheat flour, graham flour, self-rising wheat flour, phosphated wheat flour, bromated flour, enriched flour, enriched self-rising flour, enriched bromated flour, corn flour, cornmeal, and hominy grits shall be packaged only in units of five, ten, twenty-five, fifty or one hundred pounds, avoirdupois weight: Provided, that packages in units of less than five pounds or more than one hundred pounds shall be permitted.
(Ord. 106516 § 1, 1977; Ord. 98820 § 31, 1970.)

7.04.535 Bulk deliveries sold in terms of weight and delivered by vehicle.

When a vehicle delivers to an individual purchaser a commodity in bulk, and the commodity is sold in terms of weight units, the delivery shall be accompanied by a duplicate delivery ticket with the following information clearly stated, in ink or by means of other indelible marking equipment and, in clarity, equal to type or printing: (A) the name and address of the vendor, (B) the name and address of the purchaser, and (C) the net weight of the delivery expressed in pounds; and if the net weight is derived from determinations of gross and tare weights, such gross and tare weights also shall be stated in terms of pounds. One of these tickets shall be retained by the vendor, and the other shall be delivered to the purchaser at the time of delivery of the commodity, or shall be surrendered, on demand, to the City Sealer or Deputy Sealer, who, if he desires to

Subchapter VII Weighmaster License

retain it as evidence, shall issue a weight slip in lieu thereof for delivery to the purchaser: Provided, that if the purchaser, himself, carries away his purchase, the vendor shall be required only to give to the purchaser at the time of sale a delivery ticket stating the number of pounds of commodity delivered to him.
(Ord. 98820 § 32, 1970.)

7.04.540 Furnace and stove oil.

All furnace and stove oil shall be sold by liquid measure or by net weight in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.04.200. In the case of each delivery of such liquid fuel not in package form and in an amount greater than ten gallons in the case of sale by liquid measure or one hundred pounds in the case of sale by weight, there shall be rendered to the purchaser, either: (A) at the time of delivery or (B) within a period mutually agreed upon in writing or otherwise between the vendor and the purchaser, a delivery ticket or a written statement on which, in ink or by means of other indelible marking equipment and, in clarity, equal to type or printing, there shall be clearly stated: (1) the name and address of the vendor, (2) the name and address of the purchaser, (3) the identity of the type of fuel comprising the delivery, (4) the unit price (that is, the price per gallon or per pound, as the case may be) of the fuel delivered, (5) in the case of sale by liquid measure, the liquid volume of the delivery, together with any meter readings from which such liquid volume has been computed, expressed in terms of the gallon and its binary or decimal subdivisions, and (6) in the case of sale by weight, the net weight of the delivery, together with any weighing scale readings from which such net weight has been computed, expressed in terms of tons or pounds avoirdupois.

(Ord. 98820 § 33, 1970.)

7.04.545 Berries and small fruits.

Berries and small fruits shall be offered and exposed for sale and sold by weight, or by measure in open containers having capacities of one-half dry pint, one dry pint, or one dry quart: Provided, that the marking provisions of Section 7.04.205 shall not apply to such containers.

(Ord. 98820 § 34, 1970.)

7.04.565 License required.

It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, to become, act as, or hold himself/herself out to be a City Weighmaster, or a City Weigher, without first obtaining and being the holder of a valid and subsisting license so to do, to be known as a "City Weighmaster license" and/or a "City Weigher license."

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(A), 1970.)

7.04.570 Weighmaster license—Application, issuance and fee.

Any person, firm or corporation possessing a scale that complies with the specifications, tolerances, and other technical requirements for weighing devices, together with amendments thereto, as recommended by the National Bureau of Standards and published in National Bureau of Standards Handbook 44, may make application to the City Sealer (Director of Licenses and Consumer Affairs) to be appointed a Licensed City Weighmaster. If the scale is approved by the City Sealer, he/she may in his/her discretion so appoint the applicant and notify the City Comptroller to issue a City Weighmaster license in accordance with such appointment. The annual fee for such license shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00) which shall accompany the application and all such licenses shall expire at midnight April 30th of each year, but may be renewed from year to year by the City Sealer upon payment of the annual fee. If the original application for a City Weighmaster's license and/or a City Weigher's license is made within six months of the date fixed for expiration of the annual license, the fee shall be one-half the annual fee.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(B), 1970.)

7.04.575 Weigher license application.

Such license shall authorize the holder to apply in writing to the City Sealer for appointment of such holder or one or more of his/her employees or the officers if a corporation, as a Licensed City Weigher. If the City Sealer finds that the prospective appointee has ability to correctly weigh and use the scale and determine the gross, tare and net weights of any article

CONSUMER PROTECTION

or commodity which he/she weighs, the City Sealer may so appoint and notify the City Comptroller to issue a City Weigher license in accordance with such appointment.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(C), 1970.)

7.04.580 Authorization to issue certificates of weights.

Such license shall authorize the holder to issue certified weight certificates at the location designated in the license in conformity with the standards of weights and measures authorized and established by this code. The license shall expire at midnight April 30th of each year and may be renewed from year to year by the City Sealer. Such license shall authorize the Licensed City Weigher in the name of the Licensed City Weighmaster to issue certificates of weights only at the location designated in his/her license and shall not be transferable from one person to another nor from one location to another.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(D), 1970.)

7.04.585 Renewal of license—Late fees.

A. Any person who has held a license in the previous license year for which an annual license period is prescribed and who continues to engage in the activity shall, upon failure to make timely application for renewal of the license, pay a late renewal fee as follows:

1. If the renewal application is received after the date of expiration of the previous license but before the end of thirty days into the new license year: ten percent of the annual license fee or Ten Dollars (\$10.00) whichever is greater;

2. If the renewal application is received after thirty days into the new license year: twenty percent or Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), whichever is greater.

B. No annual license shall be issued until any late renewal fee has been paid; provided, that payment of the late renewal fee may be waived whenever the Director finds that timely application was beyond the control of the licensee by reason of severe circumstances; for example, serious illness of the licensee, death or incapacity of an accountant or other person who retains possession of the licensee's license

records, loss of business records due to theft, fire, flood or other similar acts.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(E), 1970.)

7.04.590 Duties of Licensed City Weigher.

Any Licensed City Weigher shall at any time without charge weigh any article or commodity on the scale for which he/she is licensed, brought there by the City Sealer or any Deputy Sealer, and issue a certificate of weight therefor; and he/she shall without charge weigh upon such scale, and issue a certificate of weight therefor, on any article or commodity for which he/she his/her Licensed City Weighmaster is vendor. The delivery or sales ticket required by this code to be delivered to the consumer shall bear thereon a statement which shall be signed by the Licensed City Weigher for the Licensed City Weighmaster to the effect that the weight shown thereon is true and correct and shall also bear an impression of a seal of the Licensed City Weighmaster which shall be placed thereon by the Licensed City Weigher who actually weighs the article or commodity. The Licensed City Weighmaster shall by himself/herself or through his/her Licensed City Weigher keep a record of each certified weight issued in his/her name, which record shall be open to inspection by the City Sealer or any Deputy Sealer during all business hours.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(F), 1970.)

7.04.595 Seal presses.

The seal presses required to be used for certification shall be the property of the city and shall be forfeited and returned to the City Sealer upon revocation or termination of the appointment of the Licensed City Weighmaster. Such seals shall be of a form and design prescribed by the City Sealer and secured from him/her at the expense of the Licensed City Weighmaster.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(G), 1970.)

7.04.600 Weighing of vehicles.

The City Sealer or any Deputy Sealer may require the driver of any vehicle containing any commodity that has been weighed by a Licensed

City Weigher to again visit the same scale or another scale and to again weigh such commodity or article and/or vehicle for gross, tare and net weights, and it shall be unlawful for such driver to refuse so to do. In event the weights certified by such Licensed City Weigher shall be found incorrect, the City Sealer or Deputy Sealer shall retain the delivery ticket thus certified in his/her possession and require the issuance of a new and correct certified delivery ticket. It shall be unlawful to issue, use or deliver any false, incomplete or irregular certified delivery ticket.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(H), 1970.)

7.04.605 Only authorized persons to certify weights.

It shall be unlawful for any person other than the City Sealer or Deputy Sealer or a Licensed City Weigher to certify the weights of any commodity and no such Weigher shall use any motor truck scale and issue a certificate of weight thereon for less than one thousand pounds.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(I), 1970.)

7.04.610 Revocation of appointment.

The City Sealer may revoke the appointment of any such Weighmaster or Weigher not conforming to the requirements of this code and no compensation shall be paid by the city to any such Weighmaster or Weigher.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(J), 1970.)

7.04.615 Delivery of certificate to consumer.

It is unlawful to deliver any commodity or article weighed by a Licensed City Weigher to any consumer unless the certificate of weight thereof on a form approved by the City Sealer is delivered to the consumer at the time of the delivery of the article or commodity; provided, that when a Licensed City Weighmaster is the buyer of any commodity and weighs such he shall deliver to the seller of such commodity a certificate of weight on a form approved by the City Sealer.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(K), 1970.)

7.04.620 Alteration of weight or certificate prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to alter, vary or lessen the weight or measure of any load of any commodity commonly sold by weight or measure, after the same has been weighed upon the vendor's scale, or has been officially weighed or measured, by abstracting or unloading therefrom any portion of such commodity, except at the place where the same was directed by the buyer to be delivered, or to alter or change any weight slip or Deputy Weighmaster's certificate accompanying such delivery.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(L), 1970.)

7.04.625 Use of official tickets, certificates or statements.

It is unlawful to use, exhibit, issue or deliver any weight ticket, certificate of weight or measure or statement of weight or measure of any kind on which in whole or in part is impressed or stamped by seal, or otherwise, or printed or written, or set forth thereon in any manner, the words "City of Seattle," or name of any department or division, office or officer or employee of the city, unless authorized by this code.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(M), 1970.)

7.04.630 Surrender of license to City Sealer.

Upon revocation of any City Weighmaster's license, such license and all City Weigher's licenses issued under the City Weighmaster's license, shall be surrendered to the City Sealer. A City Weighmaster, upon termination of employment of any Licensed City Weigher, or upon revocation of any City Weigher's license, shall surrender such license to the City Sealer.

(Ord. 107158 § 22(part), 1978: Ord. 106025 § 10(part), 1976: Ord. 102635 § 2(part), 1973: Ord. 98820 § 35(N), 1970.)

Subchapter VIII Special Inspection Service

7.04.650 Request for service—Fees.

A. "Special inspection service," as used in this code, shall denote all inspection service made on request. Such service shall not be furnished unless and until the applicant shall

CONSUMER PROTECTION

present to the City Sealer a receipt from the City Treasurer showing payment of the fee prescribed.

B. The following fees for special inspection service are established:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|---------|
| Vehicle (beam type) | .5 to 30 tons | \$ 5.00 |
| Vehicle (beam type) | Above 30 tons | 10.00 |
| Vehicle (automatic-indicating) | .5 to 30 tons | 10.00 |
| Vehicle (automatic-indicating) | Above 30 tons | 20.00 |
| Dormant (beam type) | ½ to 6 tons | 2.50 |
| Dormant (automatic-indicating) | 1000# or less | 5.00 |
| Dormant (automatic-indicating) | Above 1000# | 10.00 |
| Portable | 2000# or less | 2.50 |
| Portable | Above 2000# | 5.00 |
| OHB (overheading butcher's beam) | 6000 to 1100# | 5.00 |
| Computing | .50# or less | 1.00 |
| Even Balance | 1000# or less | 1.00 |
| Counter | 400# or less | 2.00 |
| Spring Dial Scales | .60# or less | 10.00 |
| Spring Dial Scales | .60# to 600# | 2.00 |
| Hopper | .5 tons or less | 25.00 |
| Crane | .20 tons or less | 25.00 |
| Weights-nominal value | Each | 1.00 |
| Weights-calibration | Each | 1.00 |
| Gasoline Pumps | Each | 2.00 |
| Tank Truck Meters | Each | 5.00 |
| Tank Truck Compartment Calibration | Each | 25.00 |
| Loading Rack Meters | Each | 15.00 |
| Linear Measures (yardsticks) | Each | .50 |
| Measuregraphs (cloth measuring) | Each | 1.00 |
| Taximeters | Each rate checked | 5.00 |
| Odometers | Each | 2.00 |
| Liquid Test Measures | | |
| 1 pint to 5 gallons incl. | Each | 1.00 |
| Over 5 gallons to 50 gallons | Each | 2.00 |
| Over 50 gallons to 300 gallons | Each | 10.00 |
| Over 300 gallons | Each | 15.00 |

(Ord. 108196 § 3, 1979; Ord. 98820 § 36, 1970.)

Seattle Municipal Code
as adopted in 1980
For current SMC, contact
the Office of the City Clerk

Subchapter IX Enforcement**7.04.675 Construction of contracts.**

Fractional parts of any unit of weight or measure shall mean like fractional parts of the value of such unit as prescribed or defined in Sections 7.04.015, 7.04.035, 7.04.075 and 7.04.100, and all contracts concerning the sale of commodities and services shall be construed in accordance with this requirement.
(Ord. 98820 § 37, 1970.)

7.04.680 Hindering or obstructing City Sealer.

It is unlawful for any person to hinder or obstruct in any way the City Sealer or any Deputy Sealer in the performance of his official duties, and anyone convicted of a violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) or more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), or by imprisonment for not more than three months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.
(Ord. 98820 § 38, 1970.)

7.04.685 Impersonation of City Sealer.

It is unlawful for any person to impersonate in any way the City Sealer or Deputy Sealer by the use of his seal or a counterfeit of his seal, or in any other manner, and anyone convicted of a violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.
(Ord. 98820 § 39, 1970.)

7.04.690 Offenses and penalties.

A. It is unlawful for any person, by himself or by his servant or agent, or as the servant or agent of another person, to:

1. Use, or have in possession for the purpose of using, for any commercial purpose specified in Section 7.04.145, or sell, offer, or expose for sale or hire, or have in possession for the purpose of selling or hiring, an incorrect weight or measure or any device or instrument used to or calculated to falsify any weight or measure;

2. Use, or have in possession for the purpose of current use, for any commercial purpose specified in Section 7.04.145, a weight or measure that does not bear a seal or mark such as is specified in Section 7.04.165, unless

such weight or measure has been exempted from testing by the provisions of Section 7.04.145;

3. Dispose of any rejected or condemned weight or measure in a manner contrary to law;

4. Remove from any weight or measure, contrary to law, any tag, seal, or mark placed thereon by the appropriate authority;

5. Sell, or offer or expose for sale, less than the quantity he represents of any commodity, thing, or service;

6. Take more than the quantity he represents of any commodity, thing, or service when, as buyer, he furnishes the weight or measure by means of which the amount of the commodity, thing, or service is determined;

7. Keep for the purpose of sale, advertise, or offer or expose for sale, or sell, any commodity, thing, or service in a condition or manner contrary to law;

8. Use in retail trade, except in the preparation of packages put up in advance of sale and of medical prescriptions, a weight or measure that is not so positioned that its indications may be accurately read and the weighing or measuring operation observed from some position which may reasonably be assumed by a customer;

9. Violate any provision of this code for which a specific penalty has not been prescribed.

B. Anyone convicted of a violation of this section shall upon a first conviction thereof, be punishable by a fine of not less than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) or more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), or by imprisonment for not more than three months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and upon a second or subsequent conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(Ord. 98820 § 40, 1970.)

7.04.695 Presumptive evidence.

For the purposes of this code, proof of the existence of a weight or measure or a weighing or measuring device in or about any building,

CONSUMER PROTECTION

enclosure, stand, or vehicle in which or from which it is shown that buying or selling is commonly carried on, shall in the absence of conclusive evidence to the contrary, be presumptive proof of the regular use of such weight or measure or weighing or measuring device for commercial purposes and of such use by the person in charge of such building, enclosure, stand, or vehicle.

(Ord. 98820 § 41, 1970.)

Chapter 7.08

FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING¹

Sections:

- 7.08.010 Purpose of chapter—Enforcement.
- 7.08.020 Definitions.
- 7.08.030 False or deceptive advertising prohibited.
- 7.08.040 Restrictions on statements of former price.
- 7.08.050 Use of the word "value."
- 7.08.060 Defense to prosecution under Section 7.08.050.
- 7.08.070 Secondhand goods.
- 7.08.080 Restrictions on use of term "values up to."
- 7.08.090 Advertiser to be dealer.
- 7.08.100 Violation—Penalty.
- 7.08.110 Violation—Designation of principal.
- 7.08.120 Chapter not applicable to printers, publishers and their agents.

Statutory Reference: For statutory provisions on crimes relating to false advertising, see RCW Ch. 9.04.

Severability: If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or void, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Chapter.
(Ord. 43475 § 11, 1922.)

1. Cross-reference: For provisions regarding the false advertisement or sale of meat, see Section 10.12.200 of this Code.

7.08.010 Purpose of chapter—Enforcement.

This entire chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the state and of the city for the protection of the public economic and social welfare, health, peace and morals, and all its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of that purpose. It shall be the duty of the Director of

Licenses and Consumer Affairs concurrently with the Chief of Police to enforce this Chapter.
(Ord. 102618 § 1, 1973; Ord. 43475 § 1, 1922.)

Cases: This ordinance does not regulate in an area preempted by state law. *Seattle v. Proctor*, 183 Wn. 299, 48 P.2d 241 (1935.)

7.08.020 Definitions.

A. "Advertise," as used in this chapter, includes the making, displaying, publishing, uttering, disseminating or circulating of any announcement to the public of an offer to sell anything whatever by means of oral announcement or by radio or otherwise, or in any newspaper, periodical, magazine, pamphlet, bulletin, circular, letter, or upon any placard, poster, sign, picture or handbill, or in or by means of any other advertising medium whatsoever, whether like or unlike those enumerated in this subsection.

B. "Person," as used in this chapter, means and includes natural persons of either sex, firms, copartnerships and corporations, whether acting by themselves or by servant, agent or employee.

C. The singular number shall include the plural and the masculine pronoun shall include the feminine.

(Ord. 66400 § 1, 1936; Ord. 43475 § 2, 1922.)

7.08.030 False or deceptive advertising prohibited.

It shall be unlawful to advertise any goods, wares or merchandise, securities, service, real estate or any other thing offered by such person, directly or indirectly, to the public for sale or distribution by making or employing any assertion, representation or statement of fact which is untrue, deceptive or misleading.
(Ord. 43475 § 3, 1922.)

7.08.040 Restrictions on statements of former price.

It shall be unlawful to advertise for sale any goods, wares or merchandise, securities, service or real estate by announcing the present price of the same, or any of them, together with a statement of any former price thereof, unless such former price be the lowest at which the same were offered for sale to the public prior to their being offered at the present advertised price.

(Ord. 43475 § 4, 1922.)

7.08.050 Use of the word "value."

It shall be unlawful in advertising for sale any goods, wares or merchandise, or securities or real estate, to use in connection with the word "value," or any synonymous term, any word or figure as thus used falsely or fraudulently conveying, or intended to convey, a meaning that the thing so advertised is intrinsically worth more than, or previously sold in Seattle for a price higher than, the price so presently advertised.

(Ord. 51632 § 1(part), 1926: Ord. 43475 § 4(a), 1922.)

7.08.060 Defense to prosecution under Section 7.08.050.

A. It shall be no defense to a prosecution under Section 7.08.050 that the advertisement upon which the prosecution is based represents the opinion of the accused as to value, unless it is clearly stated in such advertisement that the representation as to value therein contained is a matter of opinion and not a statement of fact.

B. "Value" and "worth," as used in this section and Section 7.08.050, shall each respectively mean the prevailing market price at which a thing is regularly sold in Seattle.

(Ord. 51632 § 1(part), 1926: Ord. 43475 § 4(b), 1922.)

7.08.070 Secondhand goods.

It shall be unlawful for any person to advertise the sale of any merchandise which is secondhand or used merchandise, or which consists of articles or units or parts known as "seconds," or which has been rejected by the manufacturer thereof as not first class, unless there be conspicuously displayed directly in connection with the name and description of such merchandise and each specified article, unit or part thereof, a direct and unequivocal statement, phrase or word which will clearly indicate that such merchandise or such article, unit or part thereof so advertised is secondhand, used or consists of "seconds," or has been rejected by the manufacturer thereof as not first class as the fact shall be.

(Ord. 68362 § 1, 1938: Ord. 43475 § 4(c), 1922.)

7.08.080 Restrictions on use of term "values up to."

It shall be unlawful for any person in advertising any goods, wares or merchandise for sale

at retail to the public, to use the term "values up to," a certain value stated in money, or to use any word or combination of words or figures of similar import, without complying with the following requirements:

A. If the goods, wares or merchandise have prior to such advertising been offered for sale to the public at retail, the person so advertising the same shall specifically state as a part of his advertisement:

1. The lowest price at which each class of the goods, wares or merchandise was so formerly offered for sale; and

2. In each class the name or description and number of articles being advertised for sale. "Class," as used in this subsection A has reference to price, each class to consist of all articles of the same kind formerly offered for sale at the same price.

B. If any of the goods, wares or merchandise have not prior to such advertising been offered to the public for sale at retail, the person so advertising the same shall, as a part of his advertisement, state that such goods, wares or merchandise have never been previously offered for sale to the public at retail.

(Ord. 66400 § 2, 1936: Ord. 43475 § 5, 1922.)

Cases: It is arbitrary, unreasonable and therefore invalid to require an advertisement for the sale of any lot of miscellaneous goods with values "up to" a certain price to state the name and number of such goods and the lowest price at which each of such articles was offered for sale prior to the advertisement. *Seattle v. Proctor*, 183 Wn. 293, 48 P.2d 238 (1935).

7.08.090 Advertiser to be dealer.

It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in the business of selling goods, wares or merchandise, securities, service or real estate to advertise the sale of the same unless it shall be stated in the advertisement of such sale, clearly and unequivocally, that the person advertising such sale of goods, wares or merchandise, securities, service or real estate is a dealer in the same; provided, however, that the advertisement of the sale of any goods, wares or merchandise, securities, service or real estate, in such form as to make it plainly apparent therefrom that the person so advertising is actually engaged in the business of selling such goods, wares, or merchandise, securities, service or real estate as a business, shall be deemed a sufficient compliance with the terms of this chapter.

(Ord. 43475 § 6, 1922.)¹

CONSUMER PROTECTION

1. Editor's Note: Ord. 51632 purportedly added a § 6a to Ord. 43475, but that addition did not appear in the text of the ordinance.

7.08.100 Violation—Penalty.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), or by imprisonment in the City Jail for a period not exceeding ninety days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. (Ord. 66400 § 3, 1936; Ord. 43475 § 7, 1922.)

7.08.110 Violation—Designation of principal.

Every person concerned in any act or omission in violation of this chapter, whether he directly performs or omits to perform any act in violation of this chapter, or aids or abets the same, whether present or absent, and every person who directly or indirectly counsels, encourages, hires, commands, induces, or otherwise procures another to commit such violation is, and shall be, a principal under the terms of this chapter, and shall be proceeded against and prosecuted as such. (Ord. 43475 § 8, 1922.)

7.08.120 Chapter not applicable to printers, publishers or their agents.

None of the provisions of this chapter shall apply to any person engaged in commercial printing or to any person engaged in publishing any newspaper or periodical, or to any person engaged in the operation of a radio station, or to any agent of any such persons who prepare or publish any of the advertising mentioned in this chapter for other persons in good faith and without knowledge of the falsity or deceptive character thereof. (Ord. 66400 § 4, 1936; Ord. 43475 § 9, 1922.)

Chapter 7.12

DISCLOSURE OF UNIT PRICES

Sections:

- 7.12.010 Definitions.
- 7.12.020 Unit pricing required in grocery stores.
- 7.12.030 Commodities to be unit priced.
- 7.12.040 Units of measure to be used.

- 7.12.050 Computation to nearest one-hundredth of one cent.
- 7.12.060 Information tag or sign.
- 7.12.070 Unit pricing of sale items.
- 7.12.080 Exemptions from chapter provisions.
- 7.12.090 Enforcement—Stop orders—Hearing requests.
- 7.12.100 Police powers of City Sealer.
- 7.12.110 Violation—Penalty.

Severability: The invalidity of any section, subsection, provision, clause, or portion of this chapter, or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this chapter or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances. (Ord. 100708 § 12, 1972.)

7.12.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

A. "Central warehouse" means the primary and principal source of supply for a particular grocery store or grocery department of the consumer commodities designated in Section 7.12.030.

B. "City Sealer" means the city of Seattle Sealer of Weights and Measures or his authorized agent.

C. "Consumer" means any person who purchases consumer commodities at retail.

D. "Consumer commodity" means any article, product, or commodity of any kind or class produced or distributed for retail sale, for consumption by individuals or for use by individuals for purposes of personal care, or in the performance of personal care, or in the performance of services rendered within the household, and which is used or expended in the course of such consumption.

E. "Convenience store" means any grocery store or grocery department which as a regular business practice displays or offers for sale at the same time only one brand and one package size for at least ninety percent of the consumer commodities which are offered for sale at such store or department and which are designated in Section 7.12.030.

F. "Gourmet or exotic food" means a consumer commodity which is not commonly or widely used, is the sole item of the type sold, or has such special, distinct, unusual, or unique features, that price is of minor consideration to the purchaser.

G. "Grocery store" or "grocery department" means any retail establishment or department thereof, selling food and food-related consumer commodities, the gross receipts from which constitute more than fifty percent of its business.

H. "Seller" means any person, by himself, or by his servant or agent, or as the servant or agent of another, who sells consumer commodities at retail at a grocery store or grocery department.

I. "Unit price" means the retail price of a consumer commodity expressed in terms of the retail price of such commodity per such unit of net weight, standard measure, or standard number of units as provided in this chapter. (Ord. 105538 § 1, 1976; Ord 100960 § 1, 1972; Ord. 100708 § 1, 1972.)

7.12.020 Unit pricing required in grocery stores.

It is unlawful for any grocery store, grocery department, or seller therein, who or which sells, offers for sale, or displays for sale consumer commodities designated in Section 7.12.030 to fail to disclose to the consumer the appropriate unit price for such commodities as provided by this chapter. The price disclosed shall be the price at which the consumer commodity is being sold at the time of purchase, and shall be referred to in any advertising or other display only as the unit price. Conspicuous and prominent explanations of the use of unit pricing shall be provided and displayed by each grocery store or grocery department, which explanation shall include an enlarged sample unit price stamp, tag, sign, or label and such additional information as may be required by the City Sealer by regulation consistent with this chapter. (Ord. 108106 § 1, 1979; Ord. 100708 § 2, 1972.)

7.12.030 Commodities to be unit priced.

A. As of August 1, 1972, the following consumer commodities shall be unit priced as provided in this chapter in the appropriate unit of measure established by the City Sealer in accordance herewith:

1. Cereals, including cold, dried, prepared, powdered or instant cereals;
2. Grains, meals, rices, lentils, pastas, flour, cornstarch, and all mixes or dried foods containing such products or byproducts thereof;
3. Frozen, bottled and canned vegetables, including vegetable products and bottled

and canned sauces derived therefrom;

4. Frozen, bottled and canned fruits, including fruit products and bottled and canned sauces derived therefrom;

5. Cooking oils, shortening, and salad oils, including derivations and imitations thereof;

6. Packaged, canned and bottled prepared food mixes, including but not limited to pastry mixes, pancake mixes, pizza mixes and dessert mixes;

7. Canned and bottled food sauces not heretofore mentioned, including but not limited to gravies, dessert sauces, mixes, mustard and tartar sauce;

8. Instant food products, including but not limited to instant breakfast, instant powdered milk, and liquid diet foods;

9. Canned and bottled jams, jellies, preserves, syrups, honey and honey products, and derivatives thereof, but excluding honeycomb;

10. Peanut butter;

11. Packaged foods not heretofore mentioned, including but not limited to nuts, raisins, dried and candied fruit;

12. Frozen foods, excluding prepared meals, ice cream, ice milk, sherbets, ice cream novelties, and imitations thereof;

13. Cheeses, prepared party dips, prepared salads, prepared salad dressings and toppings, and derivatives thereof;

14. Bottled and canned seafoods, seafood products and imitations thereof;

15. Bottled and canned meat, meat products, and imitations thereof;

16. Bottled and canned poultry, poultry products and imitations thereof;

17. Canned, bottled, packaged and prepared baby foods;

18. Bottled and canned soups;

19. Sugar, salt, pepper, tenderizers, vinegar, baking powder, and all derivatives and imitations thereof, but excluding other spices and herbs;

20. Pet foods;

21. Toilet tissue, paper towels, paper napkins, facial tissue, paper cups, paper plates, sanitary napkins, waxed paper and other food wrappings or bags of any composition, shelf paper and contact paper;

22. Laundry and cleaning products, including detergents, soaps, bleaches, scouring pads and powders, and all other household

CONSUMER PROTECTION

cleaning products;

23. Air fresheners, disinfectants, waxes, household polishes and polish removers;

24. Coffee, tea, and cocoa or chocolate, including instant, powdered and dried forms thereof;

25. Powdered and instant drink products;

26. Such other consumer commodities as the City Sealer shall determine after public hearing to be similar to any of the above.

B. Provided, that no consumer commodity determined by the City Sealer after public hearing to be a gourmet or exotic food, or not available to the seller through a central warehouse, shall be unit priced; provided further, that specific consumer commodities not available to a grocery store or grocery department through a central warehouse shall nevertheless be unit priced if the City Sealer shall determine after public hearing, that such consumer commodity is commonly and widely used, or is not the sole item of the type sold.

(Ord. 100960 § 2, 1972; Ord. 100708 § 3, 1972.)

7.12.040 Units of measure to be used.

A. The City Sealer shall determine as to all consumer commodities required to be unit priced the appropriate standard unit of measure which shall be the same for all sizes in which a commodity is sold or available for sale, and shall be based upon typical sizes or quantities of such commodities and consistent with the following:

| Type of Commodity | Unit of Measure |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Commodities whose net quantity is expressed in units of ounces or pounds | Pound or ounce |
| 2. Commodities whose net quantity is expressed in units of liquid ounces, quarts or gallons | Pint or liquid ounce |
| 3. Commodities whose net quantity is expressed by numerical count | One hundred items |
| 4. Commodities whose net quantity is expressed in units of area | Square foot or linear foot |
| 5. Commodities whose net quantity is expressed in units of kilograms or grams | One hundred grams |

6. Commodities whose net quantity is expressed in units of linear feet or inches Linear foot or inch

B. Provided, commodities which weigh one liquid ounce, one ounce (avoirdupois), or 28.35 grams, or less shall not be required to be unit priced.

C. Provided further, that as to any unit of measure so determined, the City Sealer shall cause to be held a public hearing upon receipt of written objections thereto stating the reasons therefor filed with the City Sealer by not less than twenty-five citizens.

(Ord. 100708 § 4, 1972.)

7.12.050 Computation to nearest one-hundredth of one cent.

The unit price disclosed shall be computed to the nearest one-hundredth of one cent, and:

A. If computed to be between one-hundredth of one cent and four-hundredths of one cent, inclusive of both figures, shall be rounded to the next lowest one-tenth of one cent for display purposes;

B. If computed to be between five-hundredths of one cent and nine-hundredths of one cent, inclusive of both figures, shall be rounded to the next highest one-tenth of one cent for display purposes.

(Ord. 100708 § 5, 1972.)

7.12.060 Information tag or sign.

A. Unit prices shall be in English and, at the option of the seller, any additional languages used by the patrons of the retail establishment.

B. All unit prices shall be displayed clearly and conspicuously at the point of the product display in the following manner:

1. By attachment of a stamp, tag, sign, or label to the shelf on which the commodity is displayed and directly adjacent to the point of display; or

2. If no shelf is available for conspicuous display of the unit price, by attachment of a stamp, tag, sign, or label at the closest available location to the commodity; or

3. By attachment of a stamp, tag, sign, or label directly to each commodity; or

4. By attachment of a stamp, tag, sign, or label in accord with regulations of the City Sealer consistent with this chapter.

C. The stamp, tag, sign, or label used to display the unit price shall contain at least the fol-

lowing information: brand name, total price of the commodity, unit price, and quantity or size of the product by weight, measure or count.

(Ord. 100708 § 6, 1972.)

7.12.070 Unit pricing of sale items.

All consumer commodities required to be unit priced shall be properly unit priced as provided in this chapter at all times during which such consumer commodities are offered for sale; provided, that during such times as any such commodity is offered for sale at a "special" or "sale" price which is lower than the regularly advertised price, such commodities need not be unit priced in accordance with such "special" or "sale" price in the following circumstances:

A. Such sale or special price is not in effect for more than twenty-one consecutive days;

B. The stamp, tag, sign, or label stating the regular unit price is affixed as provided in this chapter; and

C. Such sale or special price is offered pursuant to a bona fide sale or special and not for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of this chapter.

(Ord. 100708 § 7, 1972.)

7.12.080 Exemptions from chapter provisions.

A. This chapter shall not apply to any grocery store(s) or grocery department(s) which:

1. Comprise a single ownership wherein gross receipts are less than One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,250,000) per year; or

2. Receives more than thirty percent of its gross receipts from the sale of imported foods or food-related commodities; or

3. Is a convenience store as defined in this chapter.

B. For purposes of this section, grocery stores or grocery departments owned or controlled by different persons, partnerships, corporations, or other organizations, but associated together for the purpose of sharing a trade name or advertising expenses only, shall be considered as separate establishments.

(Ord. 107092 § 1, 1978; Ord. 105538 § 2, 1976; Ord. 100708 § 8, 1972.)

7.12.090 Enforcement—Stop orders—Hearing requests.

A. The City Sealer shall enforce the pro-

visions of this chapter, and he may establish rules and regulations consistent with this chapter for the purpose of enforcing and carrying out the provisions thereof.

B. The City Sealer shall have power to issue stop-sale orders, stop-removal orders, and removal orders with respect to packages or amounts of consumer commodities kept, offered, sold, or exposed for sale in violation of this chapter. Such an order shall take effect immediately upon issuance by the City Sealer and shall continue in effect until withdrawn or modified by the City Sealer, or, in the event a hearing shall be requested as provided in this chapter, until withdrawn or modified by the Hearing Examiner. The grocery store or grocery department affected by a stop-sale, stop-removal or removal order may request a hearing thereon by filing a written request for a hearing with the City Sealer within forty-eight hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after the issuance of such order. A copy of such request shall forthwith be delivered to the Hearing Examiner who shall give notice and conduct such hearing in accordance with procedures established by the Administrative Code of the city (Ordinance 102228).¹ After such hearing, the final decision as to such order shall be made by the Hearing Examiner, who shall sustain, modify or withdraw such order based on findings as to whether there has been compliance with this chapter; provided, the decision of the Hearing Examiner shall be rendered no later than ten days after the date of the hearing. If the order is sustained or modified, the City Sealer shall cause a copy of the order to be personally delivered to the affected grocery store or grocery department. Whenever the City Sealer issues an order pursuant to this section the order shall include notice of the hearing rights of the affected grocery store or grocery department granted in this chapter.

C. It is unlawful for any person to sell, remove from the premises specified, or fail to remove from the premises specified any consumer commodity contrary to the terms of a stop-sale order, a stop-removal order, or a removal order issued under the authority of this section.

(Ord. 104313 § 1, 1975; Ord. 100708 § 9, 1972.)

¹ Editor's Note: The Administrative Code is codified in Chapter 3.02 of this Code.

7.12.100 Police powers of City Sealer.

With respect to the enforcement of this chapter, the City Sealer is vested with the powers of a special policeman, and is authorized to arrest any violator of this chapter and to seize for use as evidence any incorrect unit price stamp, tag, sign or label or any consumer commodity offered or exposed for sale or sold in violation of this chapter; provided, that an arrest shall be made for a violation of a stop-removal, stop-sale or removal order only if such a violation continues after a request for a hearing has not been filed within forty-eight hours pursuant to Section 7.12.090, or after a decision of the Hearing Examiner has been rendered pursuant to Section 7.12.090. It is unlawful for any person to hinder or obstruct in any way the City Sealer in the performance of his official duties.
(Ord. 100708 § 10, 1972.)

7.12.110 Violation—Penalty.

Any person convicted of a violation of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the City Jail for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.
(Ord. 100708 § 11, 1972.)

Chapter 7.16

**REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER
CERTIFICATES**

Sections:

- 7.16.010 Delivery of certificate to grantee—Information required—Exceptions.**
- 7.16.020 Enforcement—Violation and penalty.**

**7.16.010 Delivery of certificate to grantee—
Information required—Exceptions.**

A. The grantor of any fee title or beneficial interest in real property in a transaction subject to the tax on conveyances provided in RCW Chapter 28A.45 shall, prior to transmitting the instrument of conveyance to the County Department of Records and Elections for recording, deliver or cause to be delivered to the grantee a certificate on a form prepared by the Superintendent of Buildings and signed by the

real estate broker representing the grantor, or by the grantor if not so represented, which states:

- 1. The existing zoning classification of the property conveyed;
- 2. The established permitted use of the property, if any, as shown by the records of the Building Department;
- 3. The date and description of the most recent building or use permit, if any, issued for the property conveyed;
- 4. The amount of any proposed assessments for local improvements against the property conveyed as shown on any preliminary assessment roll therefor in the records of the City Engineer; and
- 5. The amount of any existing assessments for local improvements against the property conveyed, as shown on any assessment roll therefor in the records of the City Treasurer.

B. Provided, no such certificate shall be required where the property conveyed is improved only with a single-family dwelling and accessory structures, and the grantor or his agents do not represent to the grantee that the property may be lawfully used as a site for more than one dwelling unit; nor shall such certificate be required in any transaction where the grantee has expressly waived such requirement by a written instrument to such effect separate and apart from any agreement to purchase the property conveyed.
(Ord. 101941 § 1, 1973.)

7.16.020 Enforcement—Violation and penalty.

This chapter shall be enforced by the Superintendent of Buildings, and anyone violating or failing to comply with the provisions of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a civil penalty in a sum not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00); and in any action brought by the grantee to rescind a conveyance or agreement therefor, a final judgment of conviction of the grantor under this chapter shall be prima facie evidence against the grantor that the matters contained in subsections A(1) through (5) of Section 7.16.010 were not known to the grantee at the time of the agreement or conveyance.
(Ord. 101941 § 2, 1973.)

Chapter 7.20

FLOATING HOME MOORAGES

Sections:

- 7.20.010 Definitions
- 7.20.020 Lawful reasons for notice to remove floating home.
- 7.20.030 Unlawful harassment of floating home owner.
- 7.20.040 Petition for factfinding.
- 7.20.050 Appointment of factfinder—Challenge for prejudice.
- 7.20.060 Hearing to evaluate moorage fee increase.
- 7.20.070 Hearing—Issuance of decision—Arbitration.
- 7.20.080 Failure to submit information to factfinder.
- 7.20.090 Payment of factfinder's fee.
- 7.20.100 Notices.
- 7.20.110 Time limitation of chapter.
- 7.20.120 Violation—Penalty.

Severability: The provisions of this chapter are declared to be separate and severable and the invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or portion of this chapter or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this chapter or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.
(Ord. 107012 § 12, 1977.)

7.20.010 Definitions.

The following terms used in this chapter shall have the meanings set forth in this section:

A. "Factfinder" means a person appointed by the Mayor to conduct factfinding proceedings regarding contested floating home moorage fee increases.

B. "Floating home" means a building constructed on a float used in whole or in part for human habitation as a single-family dwelling, which is moored, anchored or otherwise secured in waters within the city limits.

C. "Floating home moorage" means a waterfront facility for the moorage of one or more floating homes, and the land and water premises on which such facility is located.

D. "Mayor" means the mayor of the city of Seattle or a person designated by the Mayor to administer the provisions of this chapter.

E. "Moorage fee" means the periodic payment for the use of a floating home moorage site.

F. "Moorage site" means a part of a floating home moorage, located over water, and designed to accommodate one floating home.
(Ord. 107012 § 1, 1977.)

7.20.020 Lawful reasons for notice to remove floating home.

It is unlawful for a floating home moorage owner or operator to give notice to a floating home owner to remove his or her floating home from its moorage site, or to evict or complete the eviction of a floating home from its moorage site even though notice to remove such floating home from its moorage site was given to the owner of such floating home prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter,¹ except for the following reasons:

A. The floating home owner has failed to pay the moorage fee which he is legally obligated to pay;

B. The floating home owner has violated an obligation or covenant of such owner's tenancy other than the obligation to surrender possession of the floating home moorage site, and has failed to cure such violation within a reasonable time after having received written notice thereof from the floating home moorage owner;

C. The floating home owner, after receiving written notice of objection from the floating home moorage owner or operator, fails to abate a nuisance on such person's floating home, or causes or continues to cause substantial damage to the floating home moorage property, or substantially interferes or continues to substantially interfere with the comfort, safety or enjoyment of other floating home properties at such floating home moorage;

D. The floating home owner at the expiration of a periodic tenancy, after written request or demand by the floating home moorage owner or operator, has refused to execute a written lease agreement for a period not in excess of five years, provided that such lease agreement does not conflict with any provision of this chapter and the amount of the moorage fee is acceptable to the floating home owner or has been found to be reasonable in factfinding proceedings as provided in this chapter, and provided, further, that such lease agreement permits upon reasonable terms the assignment of the lease by either party;

E. The floating home moorage owner or operator has determined to change the use of

CONSUMER PROTECTION

the property used as a floating home moorage and gives at least six months' advance notice to the owners of floating homes moored at such floating home moorage to vacate their moorage sites, and prior to eviction, manifests such determination to change the use of the property to a use different than that of a floating home moorage by obtaining all permits which are necessary to change the use to which the property is devoted, including but not limited to shoreland substantial development permits and building permits, and by taking one or more of the following actions:

1. Entering into one or more contracts or leases with new tenants or users for the converted use of the property,

2. Obtaining financing from a lending institution or from other sources for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the cost of the conversion of the use of the property,

3. Obtaining architect's drawings or other substantial plans for the conversion of the use of the property,

4. Taking other actions reasonably related to the conversion of the moorage site property to a new use;

F. The floating home owner is directed by the moorage owner to remove his or her home from its moorage site by a written notice given at least six months prior to the demanded date of removal where the purpose of such demand for removal is to permit the moorage owner to personally occupy such moorage site with a floating home to be used as such owner's residence, provided that such demand for removal is not contrary to any existing lease agreement between the moorage owner and such floating home owner and that such moorage owner locates for the displaced floating home owner another lawful moorage site within the city.

(Ord. 107012 § 2, 1977.)

1. Editor's Note: Ord. 107012 became effective on December 21, 1977.

7.20.030 Unlawful harassment of floating home owner.

It is unlawful for the owner of a floating home moorage to harass or to seek to punish or retaliate against the owner of a floating home moored at such floating home moorage, who has in good faith exercised his or her legal rights in

relation to such floating home by demanding removal of such floating home from its moorage site or otherwise interfering with the quiet enjoyment of such floating home.
(Ord. 107012 § 3, 1977.)

7.20.040 Petition for factfinding.

If a floating home owner believes that a demanded moorage fee increase is unreasonable, such floating home owner, or any group of similarly affected floating home owners, may file a petition for factfinding with the Mayor. Such petition shall be filed within fifteen days of receipt by such floating home owner or owners of written notification of such moorage fee increase, and the person or persons filing such petition shall pay a filing fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) to the City Treasurer. Such filing fees shall be deposited into the General Fund.

(Ord. 107012 § 4, 1977.)

7.20.050 Appointment of factfinder— Challenge for prejudice.

After the filing of a petition for factfinding, the Mayor shall within seven days notify the floating home moorage owner of such filing and shall within fifteen days of the filing of such petition appoint a qualified person from a panel approved by the American Arbitration Association to conduct factfinding proceedings to consider the justification and reasonableness of the demanded moorage fee increase. The factfinder appointed by the Mayor may be challenged for prejudice by any party to the factfinding proceedings by filing with the Mayor within seven days after such appointment an affidavit stating that such party cannot, or believes that he or she cannot have a fair and impartial hearing before such factfinder. No party shall file more than one such affidavit. The filing of such affidavit shall disqualify the person appointed by the Mayor from serving as a factfinder and upon receipt of such affidavit the Mayor shall in the manner provided above appoint a new factfinder within seven days of the filing of such affidavit.
(Ord. 107012 § 5, 1977.)

7.20.060 Hearing to evaluate moorage fee increase.

The factfinder shall conduct a public hearing for the purpose of making a factual determina-

tion as to whether the demanded moorage or increase is reasonable in amount. The moorage owner or operator, whichever would benefit from the demanded moorage fee increase, shall be required to be present at the hearing. The reasonableness of the moorage fee increase shall be evaluated upon the basis of whether such moorage fee constitutes a fair and reasonable return upon the current value of the property of the owner of the floating home moorage which is devoted to such use, and in making such evaluation the factfinder, in addition to any other factors he or she deems relevant, shall consider the following factors:

A. Increases or decreases in the Consumer Price Index for residential rents in Seattle, Washington, as determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;

B. Increases or decreases in property taxes placed upon the floating home moorage;

C. Increases or decreases in the expenses of operation and maintenance of the floating home moorage, provided that such expenses are for services, repairs, property maintenance, utilities, or any other such expenses which are necessary or reasonable for the continued operation of a floating home moorage;

D. The reasonable costs of capital improvements to the floating home moorage property which benefit the floating home owners occupying moorage sites at such floating home moorage;

E. Increases or decreases in necessary or desirable services furnished by the floating home moorage owner or operator where such increased or decreased services affect the person or persons initiating the factfinding proceedings;

F. Substantial deterioration in the facilities provided for the occupants of moorage sites at such floating home moorage due to failure of the floating home moorage owner or operator to perform ordinary repairs, replacement and maintenance of the floating home moorage property and improvements;

G. The current fair market value of the floating home moorages;

H. Comparability with moorage fees charged for other floating home moorage sites in the City.

(Ord. 107012 § 6, 1977.)

7.20.070 Hearing—Issuance of decision—Arbitration.

The factfinder shall give all concerned parties at least fifteen days' notice of the date, time and place of the public hearing. In connection with such hearing the factfinder may require the moorage owner or operator to provide all information necessary to aid the factfinder in determining whether the demanded moorage fee increase is reasonable. Each party to the factfinding proceeding shall be entitled to respond and present evidence and argument on all issues involved. After the completion of such public hearing the factfinder shall issue a preliminary decision as to the reasonableness of the demanded moorage fee increase. If the preliminary decision does not support the demanded moorage fee increase in whole or in part, the factfinder shall call the parties together and suggest a resolution of the moorage fee dispute that is supported by the factfinder's preliminary decision. If no agreement is reached by the parties, the factfinder shall issue his final decision as to the reasonableness of the demanded moorage fee increase. The factfinding proceedings shall be concluded either by agreement or by issuing a final decision within sixty days of the appointment of the factfinder. No contested moorage fee increase shall take effect until the conclusion of factfinding proceedings; provided that the moorage owner or operator may recover retroactively such increases as are found reasonable by the factfinder. At any time during the factfinding proceeding the parties thereto by mutual voluntary written agreement may request that the factfinder serve as an arbitrator to finally determine the dispute concerning moorage fees pursuant to RCW 7.04.010 through 7.04.220, and any such arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of the American Arbitration Association and judgment on the award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. (Ord. 107012 § 7, 1977.)

7.20.080 Failure to submit information to factfinder.

If the moorage owner or operator fails to timely submit information which the factfinder reasonably requests to be furnished, the factfinder may extend the factfinding proceedings beyond the time established in Section 7.20.070, if it appears that the requested infor-

CONSUMER PROTECTION

mation will be submitted during such extension. However, if it appears to the factfinder that the moorage owner or operator will not make the requested information available during an extension of the factfinding proceedings, or if the moorage owner or operator refuses to make the requested information available during any extension or extensions of the factfinding process, the factfinder shall make a finding to such effect and terminate the factfinding proceedings, and it shall be unlawful for the moorage owner, for a period of one year, to collect an increased moorage fee or to demand removal of the floating home from its moorage site upon the ground that an increased moorage fee has not been paid. After such one-year period has passed such moorage owner may give new notice of an increased moorage fee, and the floating home owner may thereafter initiate new factfinding proceedings as provided in this chapter.

(Ord. 107012 § 8, 1977.)

7.20.090 Payment of factfinder's fee.

The factfinder's fee and related expenses shall be assessed by the factfinder against one or more of the parties to the factfinding proceedings in a manner consistent with the factfinder's decision, and the party or parties against whom such fee and expenses are assessed shall pay the same within thirty days of the conclusion of the factfinding proceedings. If any party to the factfinding process fails to pay any such sum assessed against him or her, the amount thereof shall be paid by the city and collected from the party responsible therefor in the manner provided by law.

(Ord. 107012 § 9, 1977.)

7.20.100 Notices.

It is unlawful to sell, lease or rent a floating home without advising the prospective purchaser, lessee, or renter of the provisions of the ordinance codified in this chapter, and it is unlawful to fail to provide the owner or operator of a floating home moorage with written notice of a proposed change in occupancy of a floating home located at such moorage at least fifteen days in advance of such proposed change in occupancy.

(Ord. 107012 § 10, 1977.)

7.20.110 Time limitation of chapter.

If no petition for factfinding is filed pursuant to this chapter during any consecutive five-year period, this chapter shall become null and void.

(Ord. 107012 § 11, 1977.)

7.20.120 Violation—Penalty.

Commission of any of the acts made unlawful by the provisions of Sections 7.20.020, 7.20.030, 7.20.080 or 7.20.090 shall constitute a violation subject to the provisions of Chapter 12A.02 and Chapter 12A.04 of this Code (Seattle Criminal Code), and any person convicted thereof may be punished by a civil fine or forfeiture not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Each week's violation shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. 107012 § 13, 1977.)

Seattle Municipal Code
Adopted in 1980
Contact SMC, contact
Office of the City Clerk