



Mike Strain, DVM
COMMISSIONER

Metrology Laboratory



THE MEASUREMENT INSIDER

Volume: 01
Issue: 01

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UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AND LAB CLOSURES



Good Friday

Fri March 29th - Lab Closed

What We Do:

In our Metrology Lab, we Calibrate

- **Weights**
- **Test Measures**
- **J-Provers**

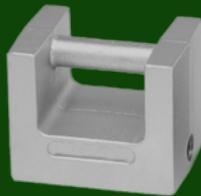
for business owners, service techs, farmers, and industry personnel who deal with weighing devices for mass and volume.

Businesses we serve include scale companies, fuel companies, and other businesses that rely upon precise measurements.



A FEW TIPS FOR KEEPING FIELD STANDARD WEIGHTS DAMAGE FREE & CLEAN

- Store test weights in a dry and clean environment
- Field standard weights up to and including 5 kg/10 lb should be carried in a rigid covered case
- Do not pressure wash or Sandblast Cast iron weights



A FEW TIPS FOR KEEPING TEST MEASURES AND PROVERS DAMAGE FREE AND CLEAN

- Clean with a non-foaming detergent to remove hydrocarbon residue.
- Store in a dry and safe area to prevent rust and other physical damage.
- Replace sight gauge if its shows yellowing or damage.



MEET OUR LAB STAFF



Whitney Corley

Program Manager of Metrology
Louisiana State University



Tyler Holmes

Metrologist
University of Louisiana Lafayette



Jennifer Adair

Metrologist
Louisiana State University

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METROLOGY TERMS TO KNOW

Uncertainty – non-negative parameter characterizing the dispersion of the quantity values being attributed to a measurand; based on the information used. (VIM JCGM 200:2012)

Maximum Permissible Error (MPE) – the maximum amount by which the sum of the conventional mass of the weight, its deviation from nominal value, and its associated uncertainty is allowed to deviate from the assigned nominal value. (ASTM E617-18)

Avoirdupois – a system used in the US for measuring weight. It is based on the pound (lb.), which is equal to approximately 454 grams (g)

Volumetric – of, relating to, or involving the measurement of Volume.

Metrologist – a scientist who develops processes and systems used to measure objects.

Metrological traceability – Property of a measurement result whereby the result can be related to a reference through a documented unbroken chain of calibrations, each contributing to the measurement uncertainty

Kilogram (kg) – the fundamental unit of mass in the International System of Units. Equal to 1000 grams (g)

PLAN ON SHIPPING YOUR ITEMS TO OUR LAB?

Please Provide Account number and/or return shipping label if using FedEx or UPS

You must create a Bill of Lading to accompany the pickup. Please send it to metrologylab@ldaf.state.la.us so that we may give it to the driver.

You must schedule your own pick up after being notified that weights/measures are ready.

Deliveries and pickups may be scheduled between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on your scheduled day.

Pallets are not to be heavier than 2500 lb.

SCHEDULING A CALIBRATION

For all mass and volumetric calibrations, a calibration request form must be filled out to get you scheduled.

[Click Here for Calibration Request Form](#)

<https://www.ldaf.la.gov> > Business Resources > Weights & Measures > Calibration & Metrology Services > Request a Calibration





Shiver me meters! Pirates Take 'Lengths' to Steal Jefferson's Metric Dream

By Whitney Corley

In the early years of the United States, there was a fervent desire for uniformity in currency, weights, and measures. In his first State of the Union address in 1790, President George Washington acknowledged the importance of this goal, stating, "Uniformity in the Currency, Weights and Measures of the United States is an object of great importance, and will, I am persuaded, be duly attended to."

Thomas Jefferson, a man of broad interests and scientific curiosity, was particularly intrigued by the metric system that France created and was about to adopt. He believed that this system, with its logical and decimal-based measurements, could bring consistency and efficiency to the young nation. So, he reached out to his friend and renowned French scientist, Joseph Dombey. Jefferson's request was clear: he asked Dombey to bring metric standards, including a metal rod, representing the meter, and a cylindrical weight, representing the kilogram, to the United States. Dombey, eager to promote international scientific cooperation, embarked on a journey across the Atlantic in 1793.

However, fate had other plans for Dombey and the metric standards. While en route to the United States, Dombey's ship encountered a violent storm and found itself off course and farther south, in the Caribbean Sea. To make matters worse, France was at war with Great Britain at the time, and the ship became a target for British pirates. In a daring raid, the pirates overtook Dombey's vessel and made off with the precious metric standards. Dombey himself was captured and held prisoner by the pirates until his unfortunate death later that year.

The meter was lost forever; however, the kilogram somehow found its way into the hands of American surveyor Andrew Ellicott. It remained within the Ellicott family for generations, a tangible link to the lost dream of metric standardization in America. It wasn't until 1952 that the kilogram was finally relinquished by the Ellicott family and entrusted to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), marking the end of its long journey.

Tragically, the hope of adopting the metric system in the United States was forever shattered when relations between the young nation and France soured. In 1798, France hosted an international gathering in Paris which would ultimately solidify the metric system as the global standard for weights and measures. However, the United States, excluded from the event due to deteriorating diplomatic ties, missed the opportunity to be a part of this historic transformation.

Thus, despite early enthusiasm and the best intentions of figures like Thomas Jefferson, America's path to metric standardization was fraught with storms, piracy, and international politics. The metric system, while widely adopted worldwide, remained elusive on American shores for many years to come.

Links to Sources:

- [Pirates of the Caribbean \(Metric Edition\) | NIST](#)
- [How Pirates Of The Caribbean Hijacked America's Metric System : The Two-Way : NPR](#)
- [It's been 230 years since pirates stopped metric in the US • The Register](#)

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Lab Fee Schedule

Metrology Fees for Calibration Services	Fee (Per item calibrated)	Adjustment Fee (Per Item Adjusted)
Weights up to and including 10 lb or 5 kg	\$7.00	\$10.00
Weights over 10 lb or 5 kg up to and including 50 lb or 25 kg	\$10.00	\$10.00
Weights 250 lb up to and including 1000 lb or 500 kg	\$25.00	\$10.00
Weights over 1000 lb or 500 kg	\$50.00	\$10.00
5 gal test measures and provers	\$30.00	\$0.00

Contact Information

Louisiana Metrology Lab
5825 Florida Blvd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70806

Hours of Operation

Mon - Fri
8 am to 4:30 pm

Lab Phone

225.922.1379

Email

metrologylab@ldaf.state.la.us

Certificate of Metrological Traceability

LDAF's Weights and Measures Division recently received a two-year Certificate of Metrological Traceability from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) which ensures that all calibrations performed by the laboratory are traceable to the International System of Units through NIST and that the lab is also competent, impartial, and independent. The State of Louisiana voluntarily participates in this formal evaluation process for the recognition of metrological traceability.