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Printed Receipts at Retail Service Stations

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WMD periodically receives inquiries about the NIST Handbook 44 requirements for printed receipts issued at retail service stations. There are several paragraphs in the Liquid-Measuring Devices (LMD) Code of Handbook 44 that address printed receipts in this application.

- **Paragraph S.1.1. General**, which addresses general requirements for indicating and recording elements.
- **Paragraph S.1.6.7. Recorded Representations**, which addresses requirements for retail transactions conducted with retail liquid-measuring devices activated by debit cards, credit cards, and/or cash or with point-of-sale systems interfaced with retail liquid-measuring devices.
- **Paragraph UR.3.4. Printed Ticket**, which addresses required information on printed tickets issued by liquid-measuring devices.

Outlined below is an interpretation of each paragraph.

Indicating and Recording Elements, Paragraph S.1.1. General

A liquid-measuring device is required to be equipped with a primary indicating element. While it is permissible for a liquid-measuring device to be equipped with a recording element such as a ticket or receipt printer, a recording element is not generally required. Note, however, that there are some instances (such as those addressed in LMD Code Paragraph S.1.6.7.) in which a printed receipt is required.

If a liquid-measuring device is equipped with a recording element, there are other LMD Code and General Code requirements in the Handbook that apply regarding clarity, legibility, and content of the printed information.

Operating Requirements, Retail Devices, S.1.6.7. Recorded Representations

Paragraph S.1.6.7. requires that a printed receipt be provided for retail liquid-measuring device transactions (for example, gasoline dispensers at retail service stations) conducted with point-of-sale systems or with retail liquid-measuring devices activated by debit cards, credit cards, and/or cash. The receipt may be provided through a printing device built into the liquid-measuring device, for example, a receipt issued by a card reader and receipt printer built into the dispenser. Alternatively, a separate recording element interfaced with the measuring system may be used to generate the receipt, for example, a receipt printer interfaced to a control console or a point-of-sale electronic cash register that receives transaction information transmitted from the gasoline dispenser. In either

case, the printing element is interfaced with and is considered to be part of the liquid-measuring device system.

Paragraph S.1.6.7. requires that the following information be included on the receipt:

- the total volume of the delivery,
- the unit price,
- the total computed price, and
- the product identity by name, symbol, abbreviation or code number.

An exception to this requirement is made for fleet sales and other price contract sales (see Handbook 44 Appendix D, Definitions for a definition of contract sales).

Use of Device, UR.3.4. Printed Ticket

This paragraph specifies the information that must be included on a printed ticket that is issued by a measuring device and contains some transaction information. Paragraph UR.3.4. requires that the printed ticket include the total price, the total volume of the delivery, and the price per gallon or liter. In some cases, a liquid-measuring device may print only one or two of these values. In such cases, the remaining value or values may be written on the receipt by the user in hand script.

This paragraph alone does not require a liquid-measuring device to be equipped with a printer nor does it require the user to provide a printed ticket. This paragraph simply specifies the information that must be included on a printed ticket if the liquid-measuring device issues a printed ticket.

Note that this paragraph does not apply to bankcard readers or other recording elements that are separate from the dispenser (i.e., that are not interfaced with a retail motor-fuel dispenser, console, or other portion of the measuring system).

For questions about the requirements for printed receipts at retail service stations, contact Tina Butcher by e-mail at tbutcher@nist.gov or by telephone at 301-975-2196.