Using NIST Handbook 44
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NIST Handbook 44 is designed for use as a working tool by the weights and measures
official, equipment manufacturer, installer, and service person; therefore, it should be
readily available for all who use it. The official should be familiar with how to reference
device requirements on a daily basis, but the user is not expected to commit Handbook 44
to memory. Direct and frequent reference to the requirements is the only way to be sure
that requirements are applied correctly. Handbook 44 includes test requirements meant
to be applied under laboratory conditions that would not be practical in a field setting.

Handbook 44 contains:
- **Change Tables** Lists of amendments and editorial changes made to that edition of
  Handbook 44
- **Introduction** Basic information about the development and use of Handbook 44
- **Section 1** General Code requirements for all device types
- **Sections 2 - 5** Code requirements for specific device types such as scales, liquefied
  petroleum gas liquid-measuring devices, taximeters, etc.
- **Appendix A** Fundamental considerations includes information that promotes
  uniform enforcement of Handbook 44 codes
- **Appendix B** Historical information on the origins and development of units and
  systems of measurement
- **Appendix C** General tables of units of measurement for easy reference
- **Appendix D** Definitions for special terms used in Handbook 44

Each paragraph in Sections 1-5 has a letter-number designation for easy reference and
finding groupings of related requirements. The paragraph-letter designations are as
follows:

- **G** General Code - These paragraphs apply to all devices unless there is conflict
  between a particular General Code and specific device code requirement, in this
  case the specific device code supercedes the General Code requirement.
- **A** Application – These paragraphs pertain to the application of the requirements of a
code to specific types of devices and those devices to which the code does not
  apply.
- **S** Specification - These paragraphs relate to the design of equipment. These
  paragraphs contain information that is directed particularly to the manufacturers
  of devices.
- **N** Note - apply to the official testing of devices.
T Tolerance - indicate performance requirements. These paragraphs fix the limit of allowable error or departure from true performance or value.

UR User Requirement - are directed particularly to the device owner or operator and apply to the selection, installation, use, and maintenance of devices.

Requirements are classified with a status of either “retroactive” or “nonretroactive.” Retroactive requirements are enforceable with respect to all equipment. Nonretroactive requirements are those that are only enforceable on equipment that is manufactured or placed in commercial service after a specified effective date. Typically, a requirement is designated as nonretroactive to allow time for manufacturers to make changes to their production processes and to avoid creating unnecessary hardship to the device owner.

In order to effectively enforce the requirements in NIST Handbook 44, field officials should be familiar with all paragraphs in Handbook 44, including those directed primarily to the manufacturer or device owner or user. Because Handbook 44 is continually updated to address the latest advances in technology and trends in marketplace practice, the inspector must routinely track changes to Handbook 44 requirements to be sure he or she is applying the Handbook correctly.