
One Fourth Of Scales Checked In Trade Organizations Of Armenia In 2007

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One fourth of scales of Armenia's trade organizations were checked in 2007, said Chairman of "Protection of Consumers' Rights" NGO Abgar Yegoyan. He said that 6ths scales out of 25ths registered in Armenia were checked in 2007.

He pointed out that according to Armenia's Law "On providing unity of measurement" all scales in the territory of Armenia should be checked minimum once a year according to the application of the economic entity, and in case if they are not checked a fine of AMD 50-100ths is envisaged.

"It is a small fine, because this sum can be earned in a week by short-weighting consumers," he said.

Yegoyan pointed out that the problem of short-weight is intensified on New Year eve, and it serves a serious factor forming pricing.

"If during the New Year holidays the price for bananas increased up to AMD 1200, and the oranges - AMD 800, when short-weighting the product the price will increase by 15-30% more," he said.

Yegoyan pointed out that mostly it concerns the street trade despite the practice of using electronic scales.

"Today the practice of interfering in inner structure of scales is largely used, as a result of which the short-weight may reach 200-500 grams," he said.

Yegoyan said that the organization that he heads intends to make some proposals for the solution to these problems, in particular, to create firm mechanism of information exchange between the state structures, reconsider the types of scales allowed and used in trade, provide full transfer to easily checked electronic scales and establish certain seals that are prohibited to break.

According to Yegoyan, in order to except short-weight it is necessary to introduce the practice of control scales, which would be placed in trading centers. "Moreover, the weights of control scales should be checked, which will give consumers a possibility to check the weight of the purchased products," he said.

He also proposed to increase the fine for not checking the scales up to AMD 200-300ths, "which is a more significant sum and can become a stimulus for introducing legal activity of the economic entities in the field of trade."

Yegoyan pointed out that the organization is going to make all these proposals to the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development.

"Protection of Consumers' Rights" NGO was founded in 1997, the sphere of its activity includes the provision of safe consumer environment and protection of the impaired right of consumers. (\$1 - AMD 307.09).
