



Regulations for the Sale of Firewood in the County of Northampton

Extracts from the Pennsylvania Consolidated Weights and Measures Act 155 of 1996, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 130 are as follows:

Section 4128 of Act 155 of 1996 requires that commodities ordered by telephone or in some manner wherein the purchaser is not present at the time the commodities are weighed, measured or counted, a written memorandum of the same shall be delivered to the purchaser.

Section 4142 of Act 155 of 1996 makes it illegal to sell, offer or expose for sale less than the represented quantity of a commodity.

SECTION 2.4 of The Method of Sale Regulations of NIST Handbook 130 Specifies:

2.4. Fireplace and Stove Wood – For the purpose of this regulation, this section shall apply to the sale of all wood, natural and processed, for use as fuel or flavoring.

2.4.1. Definitions.

2.4.1.1 Fireplace and Stove Wood – Any kindling, logs, boards, timbers, or other wood, natural or processed, split or not split, advertised, offered for sale, or sold for use as fuel.

2.4.1.2. Cord. – The amount of wood that is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet when the wood is ranked and well stowed. For the purpose of this regulation, “ranked and well stowed” shall be construed to mean that pieces of wood are placed in a line or row, with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other, and stacked in a compact manner.

2.4.1.3 Representation – This shall be construed to mean any advertisement, offering, invoice, or the like that pertains to the sale of fireplace or stove wood.

2.4.1.4 Flavoring Chips – Any kindling, logs, boards, timbers, or other natural or processed, split or un-split wood that is advertised, offered for sale, or sold for flavoring smoked or barbequed foods.

2.4.2. Identity – A representation may include a declaration of identity that indicates the species group (for example, 50% hickory, 50% miscellaneous softwood). Such a representation shall indicate, within 10% accuracy, the percentages of each group.

2.4.3. Quantity – Fireplace and stove wood shall be advertised, offered for sale, and sold only by measure, using the term “cord” and fractional parts of a cord or cubic meter, except that:

(a) **Packaged natural wood** – Natural wood offered for sale in packaged form in quantities less than 0.45 cubic meters (1/8 cord or 16 cubic feet) shall display the quantity in terms of:

- (1) liters, to include fraction of liters; or
- (2) cubic inches, if less than one cubic foot; or
- (3) cubic feet, if one cubic foot or greater, to include fractions of a cubic foot.

(b) **Artificial compressed or processed logs** – A single fireplace log shall be sold by weight, and packages of such individual logs shall be sold by weight plus count.

(c) **Stove wood pellets or chips** – Pellets or chips not greater than 15cm (6 inches) in any dimension shall be sold by weight. This requirement does not apply to flavoring chips.

2.4.4. Prohibition of Terms – The terms “face cord,” “rack,” “pile,” “truckload,” or terms of similar import shall not be used when advertising, offering for sale, or selling wood for use as fuel.

2.4.5 Delivery Ticket or Sales Invoice – A delivery ticket or sales invoice shall be presented by the seller to the Purchaser whenever any non-packaged fireplace or stove wood is sold. The delivery ticket or sales invoice shall contain at least the following information:

- (a) the name and address of the vendor;
- (b) the name and address of the purchaser;
- (c) the date delivered;
- (d) the quantity delivered and the quantity upon which the price is based, if this differs from the delivered quantity
- (e) the price of the amount delivered; and the kind of wood purchased

Subsection F of the Weights and Measures Act 155 of 1996 states the following:

Criminal Penalties:

- * First or second offense commits a summary offense.
- * Third or subsequent offense commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.

Civil Penalties:

- * May be assessed not to exceed \$10,000 *