

Hong Kong Customs combats scrap trader for using inaccurate electronic platform scale (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs earlier received information alleging that a scrap trader in Wan Chai was suspected of using an inaccurate electronic platform scale to weigh scrap metal.

Customs officers took enforcement action on December 3 by posing as a vendor and sold scrap copper to the scrap trader concerned. During the operation, it was found that the scrap trader had used an inaccurate platform scale for weighing the scrap copper, making the weight shown as 18 per cent less than the actual weight, thereby enabling the trader to pay less for the scrap copper. The trader was suspected of contravening the Weights and Measures Ordinance (WMO).

An investigation is ongoing.

Under the WMO, any person who uses for trade, or has in his possession for use for trade, any weighing or measuring equipment which is false or defective commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$25,000. The false or defective weighing or measuring equipment is liable to forfeiture.

In addition, if any fraud is committed in the course of trade using any weighing or measuring equipment, the person perpetrating the fraud commits an offence. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment for six months.

Customs reminds traders who, in the course of trade, supply goods by weight or measure should comply with the requirements of the WMO.

Members of the public may report any shops suspected of engaging in shortweight activities to the Customs 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk) or online form (eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/ced002).

