



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**State of Alaska**

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**Department of Transportation and Public Facilities**

**Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Compliance**

# Letter from the Director of MSCVC

## Daniel V. Smith



January 16, 2024

As the Director of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Compliance (MSCVC), it is my pleasure to present the 2023 MSCVC Annual Report. In the following pages you will see ways that MSCVC leverages resources and maximizes efforts to support our mission to enhance motoring public safety, preserve public infrastructure, and assure marketplace confidence and equitable trade. Our success would not be possible without the outstanding cooperation of our government, industry partners, and the professionalism of Department personnel who are entrusted with the responsibility to promote safety and market confidence on a daily basis. MSCVC consists of three main sections: Measurement Standards, Commercial Vehicle Compliance, and Permits.

**Measurement Standards** (MS) team members work to ensure a level playing field for the residents and businesses operating in the State of Alaska. Weights & Measures Inspectors provide testing and inspection of all weighing and measuring devices used in commerce. Dedicated team members not only enforce statutes and regulations, but provide education to device owners. Measurement inaccuracy can cause financial hardship to residents and businesses alike.

The **Commercial Vehicle Compliance** (CVC) goal is to reduce the number of commercial motor vehicle related crashes and fatalities in Alaska. A transportation system that is safe, reliable, and efficient provides a foundation for economic prosperity. Cargo carrying commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) deliver everything from food, fuel, and clothing to automobiles and mined ore. Passenger carrying CMVs (motor coaches) provide passenger services throughout the State, vital to the tourism industry. CVC efforts in the coming year include: educational training to carriers and drivers, size and weight enforcement, removing unsafe CMVs and unqualified drivers from the road. The **Permits Office** analyzes routes and conducts load calculations to ensure safe routes that preserve State infrastructure when movements require oversize and overweight permits. In an effort to protect State roads, weight restrictions are used to decrease the deterioration of the transportation system.

We will continue to focus our efforts to preserve public infrastructure, enhance safety of the motoring public, and assure marketplace confidence and equitable trade for all of Alaska. Please explore the MSCVC website and allow us to share our accomplishments and plans for the future.

Drive Safely,

Daniel V. Smith, Director

# Division History

On July 1, 1997, Executive Order 98 created the Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (MSCVE) by combining staff, functions, and responsibilities of groups formerly in the Alaska Departments of Commerce and Public Safety. On July 1, 2019, the Division of MSCVE transitioned to Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Compliance (MSCVC). This title modification focused the roles of inspectors on safety and aligned the Division's emphasis towards compliance requirements. This included the reclassification of enforcement officers to compliance inspectors.

**2023**



Richardson Inbound Weigh Station



**1979**

**1971**

In 1959, the new State of Alaska received its first set of standards from The National Bureau of Standards (NBS). The standards were received by (picture below from left to right) Senator Ernest Gruening, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Lewis L.



Mass Standards

Strauss, Representative Ralph J. Rivers, and Senator E. L. Bartlett. Replacement standards were provided by NBS again in 1971. These same standards are still in use today. The Metrology Laboratory has been located in the Huffman Business Park in south Anchorage since December 1979. In the 44 years since, thousands of artifacts (weights, volumetric provers, tuning forks, etc.) have been calibrated. Calibration ensures accuracy within specification.



**1959**

Credit: National Institute of Standards and Technology Digital Archives, Gaithersburg, MD

## *Mission Statement*

***“Ensuring Accurate Trade Measurements and Enforcing Commercial Vehicle Regulations”***

# Measurement Standards

Measurement Standards (MS) is responsible for the annual inspection of weighing and measuring devices that are used in commerce and trade. MS uses multiple approaches of enforcement and regulatory compliance to ensure accurate measurements in the marketplace. These approaches include:

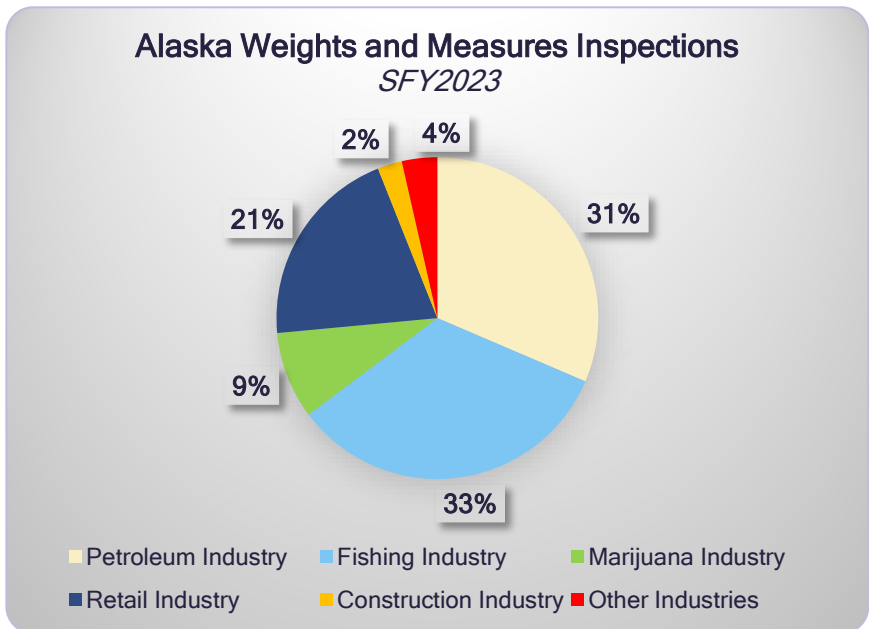
- Inspection and testing of weighing and measuring equipment used in commerce;
- Investigating consumer complaints while working toward willful compliance; and
- Providing educational outreach to device owners and consumers.



The goal of MS is to assure marketplace confidence and equitable trade with the objective of safeguarding the public and industry in matters involving commercial determinations of quantity. Inspection and testing procedures are designed to ensure the accuracy of all transactions when merchandise is bought or sold by weight, measure, or count, and to eliminate the potential for error. For example, an incorrect meter in a gasoline retail dispenser could be shorting customers on the amount of fuel being dispensed. There were 9,935 Weights and Measures device inspections conducted in SFY2023. Under AS

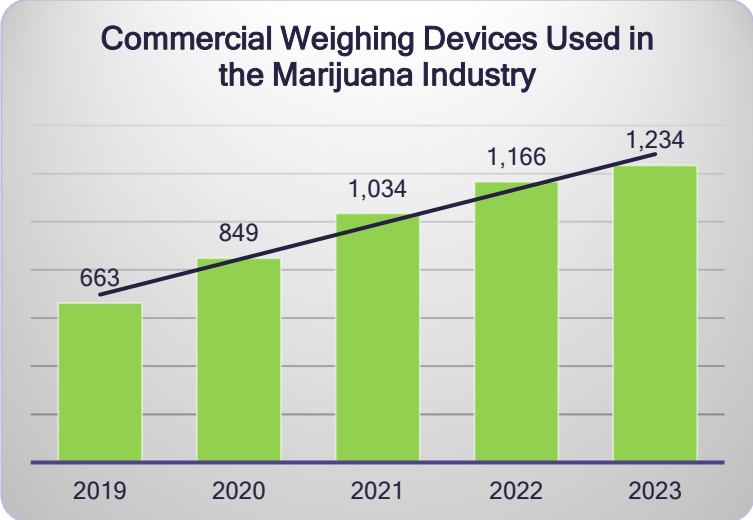
45.75 weighing and measuring devices are required to be tested and inspected annually.

**Between April & October**  
**2%** Construction Inspections  
 =  
**>80%** of time

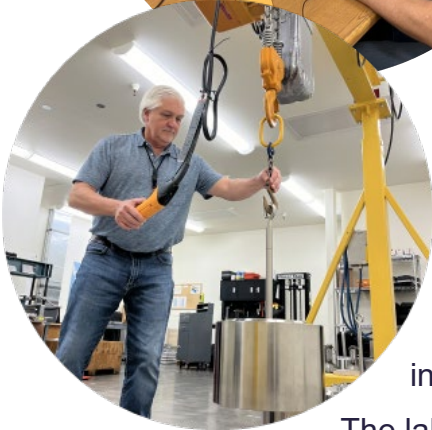


# Industry Spotlight – Marijuana

As seen on the graph below, the number of scales used in the marijuana industry continues to increase. This steady upward trend has not slowed since the inception of legal marijuana sales in the State of Alaska. Weights & Measures has been instrumental in helping these businesses comply with accuracy requirements.



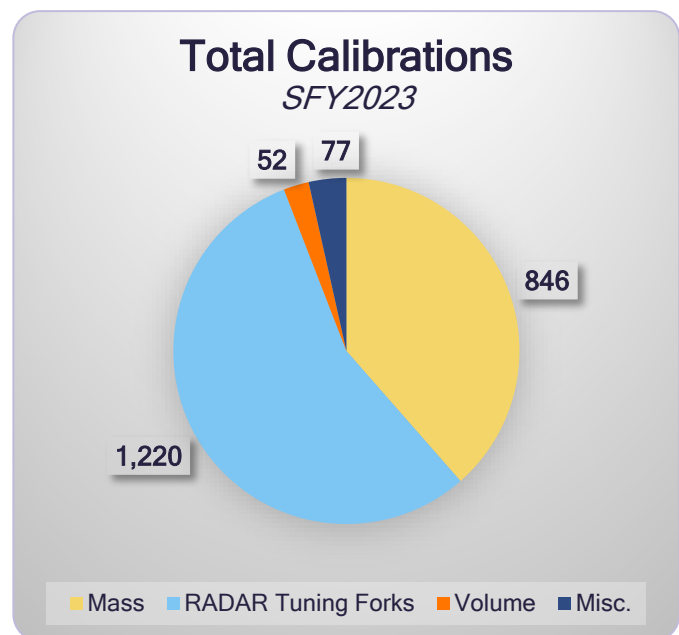
# Metrology Laboratory



Metrology is defined as the science of measurement. The State Metrologists design and perform measurement experiments to satisfy the primary function of the metrology lab: to provide calibration services for State of Alaska Weights & Measures inspectors. The laboratory also provides calibrations to support government, construction, fishing, marijuana, law enforcement, petroleum, and other industries that form the backbone of the Alaskan economy. The State of Alaska Metrology Laboratory is one of 18 laboratories nationwide that has both a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recognition and National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program accreditation. This allows the State of Alaska Metrology Laboratory measurement results to be accepted internationally and in all 50 states.

The laboratory is an environmentally controlled, 1,750 square foot facility that has been in operation since 1979. The laboratory secures and maintains all standards and equipment required to fully support the mass, volume, RADAR tuning forks, and miscellaneous (thermometry and force) calibration services offered by the laboratory. In SFY2023, the Laboratory performed 2,195 total calibrations.

In May 2023, the State of Alaska Metrology Lab hosted the Western Region Assurance Program, a NIST-sponsored training conference. This conference brought metrologists from the western United States to Alaska to learn, study trends, share knowledge, and identify ways to achieve continual improvement.



***“Wherever goods are sold by weight or measure, the State of Alaska Metrology Laboratory ensures the foundation of a fair and equitable marketplace.”***

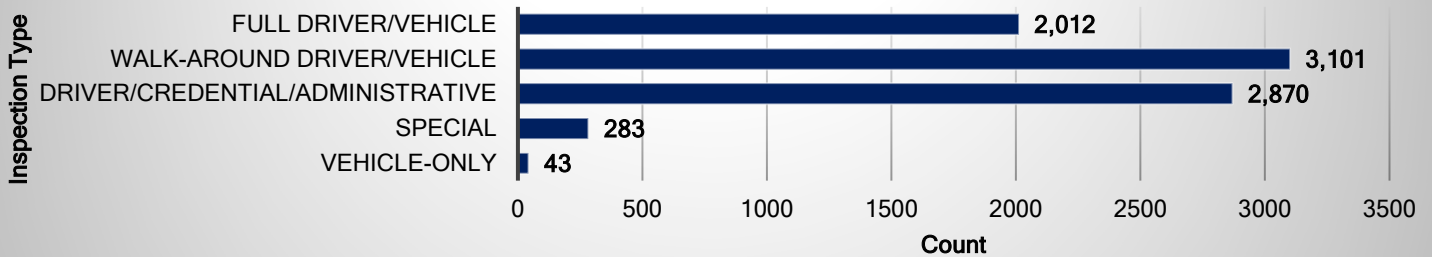
# Commercial Vehicle Compliance

Commercial Vehicle Compliance (CVC) is responsible for commercial motor vehicle safety and size & weight enforcement. In addition to the enforcement of federal commercial motor carrier safety regulations, CVC uses multiple avenues to enhance motoring safety and preserve State infrastructure. These include:

- Conducting commercial motor vehicle/driver safety inspections;
- Size & Weight enforcement;
- Continuing enforcement and training partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and
- Educating hazardous material, property, and passenger motor carriers that operate in Alaska.

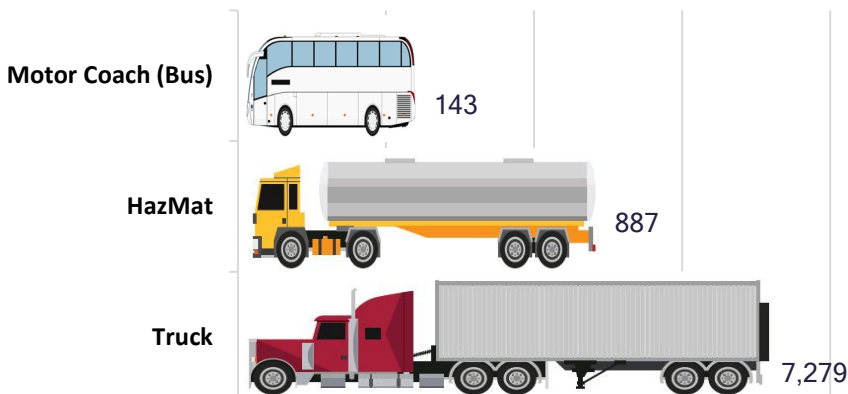


**Inspections Conducted**  
FFY2023



Commercial vehicle and driver inspections serve to reduce the CMV-related crashes and fatalities by removing unsafe vehicles and unqualified drivers from the road. In FFY2023,

**Alaska Vehicle Inspection Breakout by Type**



Commercial Vehicle Inspectors conducted a total of 8,309 driver/vehicle inspections. Of these, 80% of the vehicles and 97% of the drivers inspected did not have any out-of-service violations.

There were a total of 8,982 safety violations, which included: 7,085 vehicle violations, 1,696 driver violations, and 201 Hazardous Material (HazMat) violations. As a result, 1,006 unsafe vehicles and 234 unqualified drivers were removed from the road.

The purpose of weighing CMVs on Alaskan roads is to ensure the safety of the motoring public and to preserve infrastructure. CMVs that are not weight compliant contribute to the premature deterioration of Alaska's roads and bridges. Inspection efforts focus on maintaining a high level of CMV weight compliance at fixed inspection/weigh stations and roadside inspection/weigh sites. In FFY2023, a total of 75,060 CMVs were weighed for compliance at weigh stations throughout Alaska; an additional 240 vehicles were weighed during roadside operations. There were 879 overweight truck violations. The FFY2023 weight compliance rate was 97.7%.

MSCVC has partnered with the Alaska State Troopers and police departments for ongoing and effective enforcement initiatives. During FFY2023, MSCVC provided refresher trainings to law enforcement agencies and five outreach events to law enforcement agencies in areas with little day-to-day presence of commercial vehicle compliance. MSCVC also works with stakeholders that are interested in commercial vehicle safety, including conducting Carrier Safety Briefings, and attending Alaska Trucking Association meetings. In FFY2023, MSCVC's goal was to conduct 18 public education and awareness activities throughout the state. MSCVC conducted a total of 35 educational outreach events.



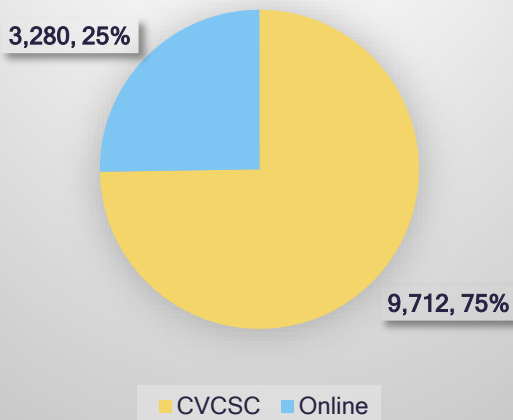


# Permits

The Permit Office operates the Commercial Vehicle Customer Service Center (CVCSC) to assist customers in obtaining oversize/overweight vehicle permits, providing legal weight and dimension information, obtaining a free transponder (electronic bypassing of participating weigh stations), and updating the Federal MCS-150 form for CMV registration. The Permit Technicians of the CVCSC interpret bridge and road restrictions, including seasonal weight restrictions, to help preserve infrastructure by detailing specific conditions for travel. In SFY2023, the CVCSC



**Oversize and Overweight Permits**  
SFY2023

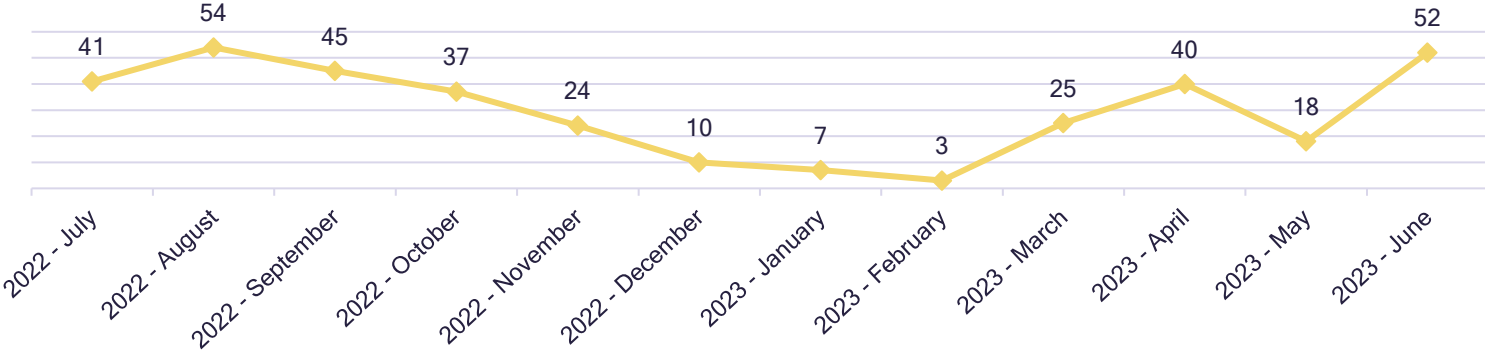


issued 12,992 oversize and/or overweight permits. Approximately 75% of permits are issued by CVCSC staff as opposed to issued online. CVCSC also issued a total of 356 Superload permits. Superloads are large and/or very heavy loads that require additional analysis.

SFY23 SUPERLOAD DEFINITION	
OVERALL LENGTH	150' OR GREATER
OVERALL WIDTH	18' OR GREATER
OVERALL HEIGHT	18' OR GREATER
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT	250,000 POUNDS OR GREATER



# Total Superloads SFY2023



These requests have a turn-around-time of five business days to allow time for bridge analysis, utility clearance, vetting, and approval.



# Summary of Accomplishments in 2023

## Commercial Vehicle Compliance (FFY2023) CMV Safety Inspections



8,309 Inspections

## CMV Safety Violations

Vehicle Related



7,085 safety violations

Driver Related



1,696 safety violations

HazMat Related



201 safety violations

## Vehicle Size and Weight

Roadside



240 CMVs Weighed

Weigh Stations



75,060 CMVs Weighed

## Commercial Vehicle Customer Service Center (SFY2023)

Oversize / Overweight Permits



12,992 Issued

Superload Permits



356 Issued

# Summary of Accomplishments in 2023

## Measurement Standards (SFY2023)

### Device Inspections



9,935 inspections

### Device Inspection Breakdown



6,715 Scales

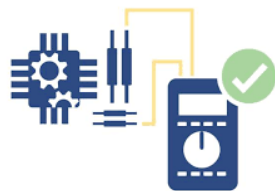


3,123 Fuel Meters



97 Others

## Metrology Laboratory (SFY2023)



2,195 Calibrations



750 Calibration Certificates Issued

# MSCVC CONTACT INFORMATION

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