

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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To: Members of the Administration & Public Affairs Committee

From: C. A. Gardner, Safety Liaison 

As Safety Liaison for the Conference, I bring to the attention of the Committee a device that has, in my opinion, proved to be an excellent tool for the weights and measures field inspector as well as gasoline pump service persons.

The acts of lifting and carrying 5-gallon test measures have long been a necessary part of the daily routine for many officials and service persons charged with testing, inspecting, installing and repairing gasoline dispensers. These acts have also been a safety concern for many of us. There are concerns about back strain; shoulder, arm and elbow stress; and spillage of product, just to mention a few.

Recently, in my jurisdiction and others that I am aware of, inspectors have started to use aluminum pull carts that are configured to hold two 5-gallon test measures. These carts are relatively inexpensive, have wide, soft tires and are lightweight. They fold up easily and quickly and can be stored in the back of most types of vehicles. The carts, even when the two test measures are full of product, are easily maneuverable. By using two caps inserted in the tops of the test measures, spillage is virtually eliminated. (It sure beats having to perfect the "raised right shoulder, lean-to-the-left" posture needed to carry the measures by hand!)

Locations such as marinas or stations that have remote fills which require a great deal of walking are especially well suited for these devices. I might point out that, even if a jurisdiction has mobile, truck-mounted test measures, these cannot be used in all places or even in all types of inspections. For instance, if you are returning to a station after a repair order, you might need to test only a minimum number of pumps, one or two perhaps. These carts are much more practicable in those cases than using truck-mounted test measures.

The response from those inspectors who have been using these carts has been overwhelmingly positive. They enjoy the benefits mentioned above and also feel that the use of these carts gives a more "professional" appearance to the job. Also, the cost of these carts is such that they should easily fit within the constraints of almost any budget.

Since one of the main responsibilities of the Safety Liaison is to serve as an information resource for members of the Conference, I strongly recommend that the Committee publicize information related to these carts, emphasizing the safety aspects of their use.