

## 3.2 NOTES ON THE CORRECT USAGE OF WEIGHING EQUIPMENT

However accurate the weighing instrument may be, incorrect use will prejudice the weighing result.

Firstly, the correct equipment must be specified for the intended use. In particular, the division size should be appropriate, noting the fact that for equipment of similar technology, the higher the capacity the coarser the weighing resolution.

The equipment must be installed properly to ensure that the effects of any external influences are minimised. This is the responsibility of the person or organization carrying out the installation.

In use, note should be taken of the following:

### General weighing applications

- Ensure that the scales are balanced, or display zero before weighing
- If a container or protective covering is used, ensure that this is allowed for by pressing the appropriate 'tare' or 'zero' key.
- Ensure that the load is not in contact with anything other than the weighing platform.
- Ensure that no part of the weighing platform or load receptor is touching an external object such as a wall or cable.
- Minimise the effects of external influences such as air currents (small devices), wind (large devices), vibration, etc.
- If the weighing instrument is portable and moved from one location to another, ensure that it is maintained in a level position and located on a firm and even surface.

### Medical weighing

- Ensure the patient's clothing is not touching any fixed part of the scales or surroundings.
- When using chair scales ensure the patient's feet are not touching the ground, nor arms brushing against an adjacent fixture.
- When monitoring periodical weight change, ensure that the patient always wears clothing of similar weight.
- Do not weigh young children on scales of high capacity designed for adults. The weighing interval may be too coarse resulting in a higher than acceptable percentage error.

### Crane scales or hanging scales

- Safety is more of an issue with scales with a suspended load because of the potential damage or injury that could be caused in the event of mechanical failure. Users must ensure that the equipment is rated for its intended purpose and inspected regularly.
- Moving loads may cause the displayed weight to vary. Some scales may be equipped with a hold function to assist with determining the actual weight.