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FRIDAY, JAN. 19, 2018

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Seven stores pay fines for price-scanning errors

RALEIGH - The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Standards Division has collected fines from stores in Alamance, Mecklenburg, Moore, Onslow, Richmond and Sampson counties because of excessive price-scanner errors.

"We want consumers to be confident the price on the shelf matches the price that's scanned at the register," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Stores have a responsibility to make sure their pricing is accurate, and most stores pass inspection. Ones that don't are fined until they come into compliance. Consumers who would like to file a complaint about scanner errors can call the Standards Division at 919-707-3225."

The department conducts periodic, unannounced inspections of a business' price-scanner system to check for accuracy between the prices advertised and the prices that ring up at the register. If a store has more than a 2-percent error rate on overcharges, inspectors discuss the findings with the store manager and conduct a more intensive follow-up inspection at a later date. Undercharges are also reported, but do not count against a store.

Penalties are assessed if a store fails a follow-up inspection. In addition to the penalties paid, the store will be subject to re-inspection every 60 days from the last inspection until it meets the 2-percent-or-less error rate. Additional penalties may be assessed if the store fails a re-inspection. Following are stores that paid civil penalties in the fourth quarter of 2017:

- **(Alamance) Kmart #4961 at 529 Huffman Mill Road, Burlington**, paid \$900 in penalties. An initial inspection in July found an error rate of 4 percent based, on four overcharges in a 100-item lot. A second inspection in August found an error rate of 3.33 percent, based on 10 overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store will be re-inspected.

- **(Mecklenburg) Save-A-Lot #574 at 3033 Freedom Drive, Charlotte**, paid \$5,000 in penalties. An initial inspection in August found an error rate of 14 percent, based on seven overcharges in a 50-item lot. A second inspection in September found an error rate of 6.67 percent, based on 20 overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in November.
- **(Mecklenburg) Super Target #2132 at 12830 Walker Branch Road, Charlotte**, paid \$1,980 in penalties. An initial inspection in August found an error rate of 3 percent based on three overcharges in a 100-item lot. A second inspection in September found an error rate of 4 percent, based on 12 overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in November.
- **(Moore) Dollar General #4421 at 141 Robbins Town Center, Robbins**, paid \$457.50 in penalties. An initial inspection in July found an error rate of 8 percent, based on four overcharges in a 50-item lot. A second inspection in August found an error rate of 3.33 percent, based on ten overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in October.
- **(Onslow) Kmart #3815 at 175 Freedom Way, Jacksonville**, paid a total of \$4,785 in penalties. An initial inspection in May found an error rate of 3 percent, based on three overcharges in a 100-item lot. A second inspection in June found an error rate of 3 percent, based on nine overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store paid \$720 in penalties. A third inspection in August found an error rate of 2.67 percent, based on eight overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store paid \$1,595 in penalties. A fourth inspection in October found an error rate of 4.67 percent, based on 14 overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store paid \$2,470 in penalties. A fifth inspection in December found an error rate of 2.33 percent, based on seven overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store was assessed \$2,280 in penalties at that time and will be re-inspected.
- **(Richmond) Wal-mart #1010 at 720 U.S. 74 East, Rockingham**, paid a total of \$3,230 in penalties. An initial inspection in June found an error rate of 5 percent, based on five overcharges in a 100-item lot. A second inspection in August found an error rate of 3 percent, based on nine overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store paid \$1,350 in penalties. A third inspection in October found an error rate of 3 percent, based on nine overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store paid \$1,880 in penalties. The store passed inspection in December.
- **(Sampson) Dollar General #11032 at 6934 Plain View Highway, Dunn**, paid \$345 in penalties. An initial inspection in August found an error rate of 6 percent, based on three overcharges in a 50-item lot. A second inspection in September found an error rate of 2.33 percent, based on seven overcharges in a 300-item lot. The store passed inspection in November.