HOW A CLEAN BALANCE CAN IMPROVE DATA INTEGRITY

Spills and Sample Materials are regarded as the highest contributors for users needing to clean their Balances. This contamination has the potential to compromise weighing accuracy, which is why it is vital that cleaning procedures are implemented, adhered to and considered a high priority by laboratory professionals.

In a regulatory Laboratory, the cleaning of Balances are often a dimension of their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

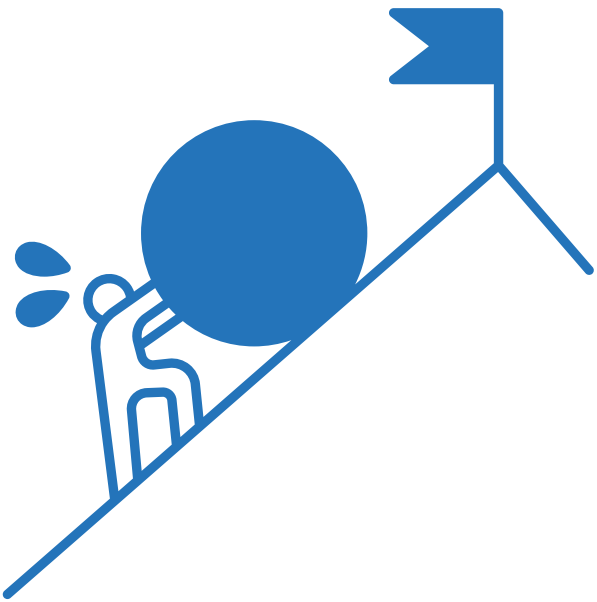
Despite this understanding, **only 53% of users consider cleaning to be a high priority within their laboratories.** Furthermore, **only 28% of users clean their Balances on a daily occasion**, whilst **just 11% currently have formal SOPs in place for cleaning their Balances**. In addition to this **15% of users have no formal way of tracking and monitoring the cleaning of their Weighing equipment.** This displays that even with the risk of compromised weighing accuracy due to contamination being present, the cleaning of Balances is not taken seriously by a large proportion of Laboratory Professionals.

CURRENT CHALLENGES TO CLEANING BALANCES

Despite the statistics pointing towards lab professionals for failing to prioritise the cleaning of their Balances. Further inspection actually displays that users face a number of challenges when it comes to maintaining their Weighing equipment.

For example, it was identified by users that it is often difficult to clean under the Weighing Pan of Balances. This highlights the need for Balances which have removable parts, as this would allow for the proper sterilisation of key components.

Furthermore, the research also displayed that users would benefit from a step by step guide on how to properly clean their Weighing equipment. **80% of users stated that a guided workflow, which took them through each step of the cleaning process would be helpful.**



BEST PRACTICES FOR DAILY BALANCE CLEANING

Preparation:

- Remove all required tools from your cleaning kit.
- Prepare paper tissues and cleaning reagents (water and ethanol were identified as the most commonly used reagents for cleaning by participants).

Balance Disassembly and Cleaning:

- Remove the Weighing Pan, clean it with a brush and then reinsert.
- Wipe the Base Plate with a soft brush and use a wet tissue to wipe away any remaining residue.

Whilst it is recommended a Balance is cleaned daily, In-depth cleaning is recommended at least on a quarterly basis or should a significant spill-over occur.

Data source: Independent lab weighing survey conducted on a random selection of laboratory scientists; SelectScience, March 2023.