

CALIBRATION IN HEALTHCARE

There are many organisations which operate within the Healthcare Industry, spanning across multiple areas. Who deliver patient care through the utilisation of medical equipment. These areas include,

- GP's
- Dentists
- Hospitals
- Surgeries
- Care homes
- Clinics and more



Developments in technology have advanced numerous areas within the Healthcare Industry, such as diagnosis, therapy and treatment.

An area often not thought about however is the calibration of the technology that has made it easier for healthcare professionals to more efficiently deliver the help needed by those who require medical attention.

DID YOU KNOW?

A range of instrument types within the Healthcare Industry require calibration. Instruments such as BP Monitors, Pulse Oximeters and Patient Weighing Scales are just some of the different types of equipment used during healthcare processes.

However, over time as medical equipment is used, it will begin to lose its accuracy as it becomes susceptible to factors such as wear and tear?

Medical equipment that has not been calibrated could provide inaccurate readings, which in healthcare can prevent the correct diagnosis of an illness or even worse, result in death.

According to figures released by the NHS, between 2008 to 2017 there were at least 845 incidents that resulted in serious injury and even death involving a medical device or equipment.

This highlights the importance for healthcare professionals to ensure that their medical equipment is calibrated regularly as well as to the appropriate standards.

THE BENEFITS OF CALIBRATION

Regularly calibrating equipment will minimise any measurement uncertainty and ensure that the equipment is functional, thus providing an accurate output in accordance with the regulatory standards.

After the calibration is complete, a calibration certificate is supplied by the service provider, which provides assurance that the equipment is working properly as well as demonstrating the standards used.

For institutions such as hospitals and clinics where the health and safety of patients is the most important priority, the calibration of medical equipment ensures that those who need it, receive the most suitable diagnosis and treatment.



WHEN SHOULD EQUIPMENT BE CALIBRATED?

The answer to this question will vary depending upon application.

Below are some useful calibration frequencies to consider.

Manufacturer's Recommendation

**When your organisation
requires a valid calibration
certificate**

**Annually, Biannually,
Quarterly, Monthly**

**Before/After an important
event, project or test**

**After an accident involving
your equipment**

WHO SHOULD RECALIBRATE YOUR EQUIPMENT?

When it comes to choosing which Calibration Service Provider, you should consider the following:

Laboratory Accreditation: Accreditation drives confidence in all sectors by underpinning quality of results, ensuring their traceability, comparability and validity. UKAS is the National Accreditation Body for the United Kingdom. A UKAS accreditation ensures the highest levels of impartiality and competence through the continuous assessment process.

On-site or Back to Base: Can the provider calibrate your equipment on-site as well as at their own location?

Reputation and Values: A brand's reputation and values are indicative of the quality of service you will receive. As the importance of calibration has been established, it is crucial to select a service provider with strong values closely aligned with delivering a professional and transparent service as well as a provider with strong experience within the calibration field.

Price: Price is a major factor which influences most if not all purchasing decisions. In regards to calibration, it is important to not only compare pricing between providers, but to also examine what is included in the service of different providers. It is also important to identify whether there are any hidden costs.

Turnaround Times: It is essential to select a service provider who is able to calibrate your equipment on time so that you keep in line with your own standards. Providers differ on the times in which they are able to calibrate your equipment.

Customisable Service: Choosing a provider who allows you to personalise your service offering is key to receiving the most suitable service you require.

WHO CHOOSE EUROPEAN INSTRUMENTS?



European Instruments are able to perform on-site or back to base Balance, Scale, Weight, and Pipette Calibrations. We offer three different service levels when it comes to calibrating your equipment ranging from UKAS Calibration for those who require traceability to international standards all the way to 'QuickCal' designed for those who may not require extensive measurements & calibration. We're also able to develop a personalised test plan for you to suit your calibration requirements whilst maintaining fast turnaround times.

We also do not set a minimum daily charge on our calibration jobs and offer a competitive rate.

We understand that booking calibration services can be a daunting task. This is due to the complex terminology and wide array of service specifications that need to be taken into consideration, to ensure you remain compliant with your organisations standards. However, because we're an independent organisation with highly experienced staff, we strive to help you pick out the most suitable calibration services for your individual requirements.

We strongly believe it's this transparent approach coupled with our unmatched experience, which makes us the best choice for your next Calibration.