

From *Control Magazine* – September 2002

What Can We Do to **Improve Calibration?**

*The technicians in our chemical plant are spending many hours on periodic instrument **calibration**, but some instruments are not being calibrated often enough. How can we establish and track the most efficient **calibration** intervals for each instrument?*

--from July 2002 CONTROL

Solutions:

Get Computerized

A computer-controlled **calibration** system is a great solution for your needs. Computer-controlled **calibration** systems with preprogrammed software that tracks the instrument **calibration** intervals and **improves** your overall **calibration** program are available from most instrument manufacturers.

When selecting a computer-controlled **calibration** system, there are many features that should be considered. Some are: a programmable timetable of the required instrument **calibration**, a programmable timetable of instruments that have not been calibrated in the required time period, the **calibration** history log and **calibration** records of each instrument, an achievable report of the required **calibration** history log of all instruments, and a report of the instrument assignment or work area.

Another important consideration is the time spent by the **calibration** technicians. For most companies, one of the first and foremost instrument concerns is to have proper **calibration** before the instrument is placed in service. When an instrument is scheduled for use and there is a **calibration** concern, the technician must either immediately correct the problem or calibrate the instrument. A disruption in the daily work schedule can cause a backlog in the preplanned work assignments for the day, and scheduled tasks may not be completed.

There are computer **calibration** systems available that serve not only as a **calibration** tool to save the technician time and **calibration** gas but also as a manager of the available instruments. Technologies in advanced computer **calibration** systems answer the needs of the **calibration** and safety program and provide time-saving features for the technician.

Calibration systems can be programmed to alert the technician when an instrument **calibration** is overdue or not calibrated in the specified time period. **Calibration** systems can provide a pre-printed report that lists the identification of the instrument and pertinent information such as the user, the location, or the name of the individual to whom the instrument was assigned.

Once the **calibration** program has been established, either by the technician or the safety department, the computer will handle the

paperwork. The technician does not need to reference a ledger book on which instrument has not been calibrated in the time frame established. Using the computer to record and track the **calibration** records of each instrument gives the user the assurance that all instruments have been calibrated on a scheduled basis. In addition, the results of each **calibration** are stored in the database of the computer.

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