

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. Obviously, this is not the best way to use our

limited resources. How can we establish and track the most efficient calibration intervals for each instrument?

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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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