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NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Sure*CAL*™
TECHNICAL NOTES

Technical Note TN 01

Do You have the Right Standards for SureCAL?

We often hear the question, "Do you have a list of equipment <u>required</u> for each calibration procedure?" The simple answer is NO. It is not that we want to keep secrets, it is just that SureCAL Calibration Procedures do not force you to use specific instruments. However, we do have a list of <u>recommended</u> standards for each calibration procedure. Approximately 90% of the time, these recommendations match those listed in the Service Manual for each unit.

One of the most powerful aspects of SureCAL Calibration Software is also one of the most difficult to characterize - flexible standards. These devices are casually referred to as standards and most are real standards that can provide the basis for tracing the pedigree of a measurement. Each Procedure comes with a list of recommended model numbers for standards, but the operator may easily make substitutions. To simplify this process, SureCAL Calibration Procedures also include a table of minimum required specifications for each standard, which provides the "substitution criteria" for selecting an alternative device. The model numbers we recommend meet these criteria, but very likely, so do others in the customer's laboratory. It is this flexibility to substitute standards that often answers the difficult question, "Will the equipment in my facility work with SureCAL Calibration Procedures?" The answer to this question is almost always YES!

Often we find that all the recommended stimulus and measurement devices needed by a facility are available in that facility. In those cases where our slate of recommended standards cannot be matched, we can prescribe suitable substitutions, which can be easily changed by the operator. In cases where drivers do not exist, we may urge that an instrument be procured, but often we can create a driver to interface with instrumentation in that facility. Our calibration procedures are not written to operate with specific standards, but instead utilize generic function references (i.e. DCV STANDARD, SCOPE CALIBRATOR, SIGNAL GENERATOR...). The idea is to treat the standard as a "blackbox" and ask this "blackbox" to perform a generic function. As long as the standard exceeds the minimum requirements (and a driver exists) you can substitute any standard for that function.

Look over your recall list and determine your needs for calibration procedures. Compare the standards you currently use, to perform these calibrations with our list of drivers. If there are differences, let us review those unique instances. We are confident that SureCAL can provide solutions to your calibration needs and improve the throughput of your facility while increasing the quality of measurements.