

Presented by



www.dts-na.com

Calibration Corner

The Most Entertaining Metrology-Related Newsletter
You'll Read Today...Practically 100.0% Guaranteed

Issue 4

Dec 2018

A Distinguished Window into the Rough and Tumble World of Calibration

The Kilogram is Dead, Long Live the Kilogram!

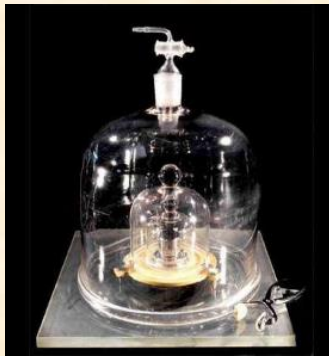
So maybe that headline is just a little melodramatic, but still...big changes have been happening with the kilogram these days.

This November at the 26th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) – sponsored by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures – a vote was made to redefine the kilogram!

We know what you're probably thinking: who exactly are these international scientists of mystery? These metrology rebels, throwing caution to the wind with their devil-may-care attitude towards international standards of measurement? Well, frankly we don't know. We couldn't have told you what the CGPM even was ten minutes ago, so we suggest you stop looking to us for these answers.

However, what we *do* know is that for the first time in almost 130 years, instead of using some metal can in a basement in France (well, a highly-machined Platinum-Iridium alloy in a secure underground facility, if you want to

be technical) to tell the world what a "kilogram" weighs – a physical item subject to wearing down over the ages – the kilogram will now be based off an inherent property of nature involving Planck's constant.



"Le Grand K" (BIPM)

That, along with Einstein's relativity equation (you know, $E = mc^2$, relating energy, mass, and the speed of light), some complicated science machines, and more than a couple well-used pocket protectors, will help make sure the world of measurement has one consistent, unchanging standard for a kilogram that it can base all its measurements off of for generations to come.

So now the big question: How does this impact the average person's life? It doesn't. At all. But thanks for reading anyway!

About This Issue

- There's a 102% chance that any given newsletter reader is significantly less interested in this kilogram thing than the author
- Impartial reviewers have given this issue an A for science, but a D- for accurately guessing what readers are thinking

Ask Kal, the Calibration Quokka



Hey Kal, what's the difference between an accredited certificate and a non-accredited certificate?

A non-accredited cert is what most people think of when they want a long form calibration certificate, and which is good enough for most organizations' calibration needs. It includes test points, measurements, a list of masters, traceability, and all the things most people need for a calibration cert for their quality program.

An accredited cert is one that has the stamp of an independent accrediting body (ANAB or A2LA, as a couple examples) on it to certify that the calibration lab has met ISO 17025 standards to perform that particular calibration within their scope. The cert will also include measurement uncertainty information, information on the accredited masters used to perform the calibration, and an extra quality review and signature.

New Staircase/Main Entrance is Talk of the Town¹

As faithful Cal Corner readers will almost certainly recall, Issue #1 mentioned the demolition of the old ramp behind our building. With an embedded shrunken color photo of a decrepit concrete eyesore in mid-demo gracing that particular issue, who could possibly forget?²

Well, if that made an impression, do we have some exciting news for you! After many months of nothing in that area except patchy grass, we made the bold move to clear it out, put up a new staircase leading to the previously-locked up second-story outer door, and have made this our new main entrance!

While it is a much more convenient and sensible entry for us, our biggest regret is losing out on the hilarious comedic potential of unlocking the door and watching an unsuspecting new person absentmindedly walk out of it and free-fall 10 feet to a serious orthopedic emergency, while casually telling them to "Watch out for that first step, it's a doozy!" in our best Ned-Ryerson-From-Groundhog-Day impressions.³

But hey – you win some, you lose some.



¹ For calibration service companies specifically located in South Grafton, MA

² Probably everyone

³ Our company president disagrees with our cavalier attitude toward this liability

For questions, comments, concerns, or to opt out of emails, please contact:
newsletter@dts-na.com