



A Distinguished Window into the Rough and Tumble World of Calibration

Lasers: Not Just for the Future Anymore

One of the things our lab is always looking to do here at DTS is find ways to increase our scope of accreditation.

This past Fall, during our one-year ISO 17025 surveillance audit, we successfully proved our ability to use our laser calibrator as an accredited measurement device for calibrating Universal Length Measurement Machines (ULMs) and Bench Micrometers up to 120 inches...and that's with a *maximum* uncertainty of 385 microinches. That's a miniscule 0.000385 inches across 10 feet of measurement, for those of you who refuse to do unit analysis since you've left

high school physics (hey, we're not judging – we admire you for standing up for something).

It's true that some of us learned most of our knowledge regarding lasers from cartoons or highly scientific films such as *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery*. Unfortunately, according to the explanation provided to us by our Vice President and Quality Man-

ager, using a laser to calibrate something in real life appears to be much less exciting (and has way less potential for destroying things) than our childhood experiences had led us to believe.

Fortunately for our customers, however, it provides an extraordinarily accurate, repeatable, and flexible way to calibrate their ULMs and bench micrometers!



Studies show that sharks with laser beams attached to their heads are surprisingly ineffective at performing high-quality calibrations

About This Issue

- Based on reading a single internet article about Fair Use law, we're 82% sure that there's no copyright repercussions to using these pictures for this column. -- 100% of us here at Cal Corner believe that "snitches get stitches" for anyone who says otherwise.



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Ask Kal, the Calibration Quokka



Hey Kal, how do I determine which calibration test points to use for my equipment?

The "safest" way is to use the manufacturer's recommendation, based on the full range of test points within which the equipment is capable of operating.

However, often that's not necessarily the best way to proceed. For example, if you operate an oven that can technically go up to 1800F, but you never use it to more than 600F, it's probably an unnecessary expense to calibrate it through a series of test points to its full range of 1800F. The same idea can apply to electronics, pressure gauges, scales, etc. The wider array of test points you want, the longer it will take to calibrate – and the more expensive it becomes! Ultimately, however, it's the equipment user's responsibility to come up with a reasonable range based on how the equipment is used.

Employee Spotlight

Name: Hannah

Joined: 2016



Hannah started with DTS in 2016 as a referral from a family member who's been working with the company for 11 years.

She's a 9-year-old rat terrier, and you can usually find her in the office on Mondays, where she stays busy wandering from office to office looking for food, taking the occasional walk, sleeping, and shrilly barking at something out of nowhere every once in a while (but just infrequently enough to surprise everyone every time).

She enjoys Beggin' Strips and attention. Her dislikes include the cold and being ignored. Frankly, she's pretty terrible at actually performing calibrations.



Rule #63 of Calibration: When you get a 7-foot tall calipers in the office, you take a picture with those calipers.

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