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# Calibration Corner

The Most Entertaining Metrology-Related Newsletter  
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Issue 16



May 2020

*A Distinguished Window into the Rough and Tumble World of Calibration*

## April Showers Bring May Calibration Newsletters

Last we left you, we were in the midst of an exciting World Quality Day season in November of 2019, poking some gentle fun at ISO auditors and providing action-packed, insightful information about the history of the Quality Institute.

So where have we been since then?

Well, we're glad you asked, even if it's frankly really none of your business.

What you didn't know is that quokkas fall into a deep hibernation at the end of the year and finally come back out in the Spring just in time to enjoy the random May New England snowstorms that we're apparently having this year. We weren't willing to just blast out five months of newsletters without Kal around, because we have a higher sense of loyalty than that.

Your next question might be: why, if that's the case, were there Calibration Corner newsletters every month throughout the winter of 2018 – 2019?

To be honest, it didn't cross our minds for a second that any of you would have any working memory of that, or that there would

have been nearly enough people reading the newsletters for continuity to be an issue we needed to consider. Kudos to you on that. Apparently, it turns out that the editorial controls and factchecking of Cal Corner aren't quite as rigorous as we all assumed they were this whole time.

So you might be wondering if there will be anything remotely related to metrology and calibration this month. If you take a look over in yonder blue panel to the right, we're going to introduce some interesting trivia about units of measure. We understand it might not be a fascinating read for everyone out there, but it is to us. And *you're* the nerd reading a calibration newsletter after all, so just take a look and enjoy.

### About This Issue

- Zero research was performed in the writing of this issue to determine if quokkas actually hibernate. We suspect they probably don't, but it's kind of exciting to send something to several hundreds of people on just the gamble that it isn't wrong.
- No fewer than 5 Google Search images of "face mask" were clicked, copied, and pasted to try and find one that had a transparent background, and that was at an angle appropriate for Kal's little head down there. We think we nailed it.
- Only one unnecessary and unprovoked instance of calling our readers names occurred this month.

### Fun with Units of Measure!

Since those of us in the U.S. haven't convinced the rest of the world to jump onboard the Imperial System yet, the world of metrology standards is benchmarked to the International System of Units (SI). But do you know *how* some of these units are actually defined as entities? Let's find out!

#### The Second (units of time)

Defined as: The duration of 9,192,631,770 cycles of the radiation corresponding to the transition between two levels of the ground state of a Cesium-133 atom (at absolute zero).

#### The Meter (units of length)

Defined as: The distance travelled by light in a vacuum in 1 / 299,792,458<sup>th</sup> of a second.

#### The Kilogram (units of mass)

Defined by: Setting the Planck constant *h* exactly equal to 6.626 x 10<sup>-34</sup> J•s, and solving given the definitions of the meter and second and given that a Joule is equivalent to kg•m<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>.

[see Cal Corner Issue #4 for more!]

There are also units for current, temperature, substance amount, and luminous intensity, but we're out of space! No worries – if these three aren't enough to make you the hit of your next dinner party, we can't help you!



## Ask Kal, the Calibration Quokka



Hi, Kal. Are we able to get calibration services taken care of with the current coronavirus situation in place?

What a great and not-at-all-leading question! Yes, you can absolutely take care of your calibration needs. We're considered essential services in pretty much any state we operate due to the important quality control needs of many of our essential customers in aerospace, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, utilities, and other critical manufacturing.

Have a general calibration-related question you'd like answered?  
Email [newsletter@dts-na.com](mailto:newsletter@dts-na.com) with "Ask Kal" as the subject!



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

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