



ATS

Advanced Technology Services, Inc.

4 Steps to Reducing Risk through Calibration

In a world where one millionth of meter variation can have a devastating effect on everything from production scrap to customer satisfaction, properly managing calibration operations can dramatically reduce quality risks in manufacturing.

Step 1. Follow Documented Processes and Procedures

Processes and procedures define the “how” and “what” an organization does to meet customer expectations. Safety and social responsibility drive product quality and force organizations to develop standardized processes to satisfy ISO requirements. Customer requirements are forcing organizations to invest in quality management systems at a time when U.S.-based manufacturers are faced with competing in a changing global marketplace and economic uncertainty.

Step 2. Avoid Inaccurate Calibrations

The implications of incorrect or incomplete calibration on a function that compromises a measurement essential to a part or component’s performance can be great. Imagine that an out-of-tolerance component is used to build the final product, thus rendering the

product inoperable or unusable. Consequences might range from beyond productivity hiccups to necessitate an expensive global recall campaign because of threats to public safety.

Step 3. Assure Gauge Availability When Requested

If gauge availability is hindering an operation’s ability to release product for shipping, costs skyrocket. Deadlines are missed, shortages occur, satisfaction ratings suffer, and sales revenue drops. A properly trained calibration workforce ensures gauges are certified correctly and available when needed. An effective calibration program is a preventive cost that is often overlooked.

Step 4. In-House vs Third Party Service Provider?

While either approach can help you achieve world-class calibration standards, more and more manufacturers are turning to third party service providers for noncore functions to allow focus on strategies that will improve productivity and profitability.