



WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR OVERALL CALIBRATION COSTS

Use of a Blanket Purchase Order

Much of the hidden costs of getting calibrations done involve your internal costs of generating a purchase order(PO). Many customers estimate their annual need and cut a single PO and allow the calibration coordinator to control and monitor the workflow, saving much of the internal costs. Simple equipment lists can be furnished to Essco rather than generating costly purchase orders.

Switch to Onsite Service

Some customers can reduce their overall costs by switching to onsite service of their equipment. The repeated shipping and delivery costs can be avoided with a single travel fee. More importantly, you don't need secondary equipment to support your operation because the equipment turnaround is in minutes, not days.

Retiring Idle Equipment

Look to retire equipment that you no longer use. Many companies have shelves of equipment awaiting work for contracts they may never see again. Retire the equipment and you can either retain it for possible future use or sell it on the used equipment market to turn idle equipment into revenue. Apply "Not in Calibration System" stickers or lock up to prevent use.

Provide Useful Guidance on What Needs Calibration

Provide guidance to your equipment users by using clear criteria for what needs to be calibrated. Not every measurement instrument needs calibration, but rather depends on its use. Review the wording in the applicable quality standards and formulate your own guidance, such as "all equipment in production, incoming and final inspection". You can place "no calibration required" stickers on equipment that don't meet your criteria.

Designate tools as "Calibrate before Use"

Infrequently used equipment can be designated as "calibrate before use." While this may not work in all areas, work tools that can be scheduled to go out once the demand for them is realized.

Implement a "Calibrate Upon Issue" program

Infrequently used equipment, like thread plugs, can have a seal applied that need only be broken when the equipment is used. You can issue the equipment then and apply a new calibration label with a due date determined from the date of issue, not the date of original calibration. This works well for equipment that shifts due to use, not time.

Replace older, costly equipment with new equipment

Some firms spend large sums to support older equipment that requires more frequent repairs and/or calibration. Newer, more stable equipment may reduce your maintenance costs.

Extend cycles for equipment with demonstrated stability and low risk

Many cycles are chosen arbitrarily with little consideration of the use, environment, or risks associated with the use of the equipment. Consider extending cycles of equipment that has demonstrated reliability, has few moving parts, low susceptibility to breakage and can be checked easily for proper operation.