

Company Focus

Preferred Supplier Status Confirms Long-Standing Blue-Chip Relationship

SIEMENS



The Field Installation Team of the UK's largest transmission substation contractor, Siemens Transmission & Distribution, has confirmed AMECaL as its 'Preferred Supplier' for the calibration of all its testing and measuring equipment!

Siemens Transmission and Distribution (STDL) provides the design and construction of substations to UK generation, transmission and distribution companies and industrial customers. They also cover transmission and distribution asset lifecycles as well as a range of substation equipment.

Howard Oley, of the Field Installation Team (FIT), Asset Management for Siemens Transmission and Distribution, has only good things to say about the long and mutually beneficial relationship with the team at AMECaL:

“AMECaL are a ‘Preferred Supplier’ for the FIT for very good reason: it’s not only because of their UKAS Accreditation, or because they can handle such a wide range of instrumentation, though these are obviously vitally important. They provide a comprehensive, reliable and professional service: fast, efficient and effective calibration and repair services, but also an immensely useful range of ancillary services to help streamline the FIT’s operations – across the UK and offshore.”



AMECaL provides a complete Calibration Logistics package – not simply calibrating and/or repairing equipment but taking an integrated approach to the management of that equipment. As AMECaL’s Technical Director Steve Oxborough explains:

“As with all our customers, large and small, we provide a high quality and fully traceable calibration and repair service, both in our multi-laboratory facility and on-site - but for our larger clients we go beyond this. It’s about making things quicker, easier and more straightforward for the customer – constantly looking to see where we can help, advise or provide assistance and make their lives easier. Really getting involved with our client’s business and how they manage the supply, maintenance and distribution of their equipment.”

Read the full article:
www.amecal.com/downloads/Preferred_Supplier_Status.pdf

Calibration News

Stay Tuned Folks – For UKAS Tuning Forks...

Next to be added to our ever-broadening scope with UKAS Accreditation is frequency measurements for calibrating Tuning Forks. Further additions to our scope are planned for later in the year – to include Temperature, Humidity, Pressure & Mass.

Featured Product

Humidity & Temp. Probe Meter



High Performance, fast response: spectacular price!

Just **£99** INCLUDING calibration (+P&P).

With calibration alone normally £63, this is a fantastic offer on a great piece of equipment – availability at this price is strictly limited so if you’d like to take advantage of this great offer, you need to call us quickly!



If you’d like more information, a datasheet is available:
www.amecal.com/products/Humidity_&_Temperature_Probe_Meter.pdf

Latest Offers

Save Time & Money: New Products + WIN with our launch competition!

To launch the **NEW PRODUCTS PAGE** on our website, we have a bag full of prizes to give away – and you can get your hands on one just by visiting the website and doing some counting.

The range of products available when you’re looking for a new Meter can be overwhelming. We’re often asked if we can use our knowledge and experience to suggest the best products, and supply and calibrate them – the answer is **YES!**

For the sake of convenience: fantastic value-for-money products are now online at amecal.com.

WIN! Just for visiting our website!

All you have to do is go to the products page, count the products, email the number and your company/contact details to david@amecal.com (by 30.09.10, max. 1 entry per company). The first 5 drawn randomly on 01.10.10 will win!

PRIZES:

Martindale Electric AM5 Analogue Multimeter (RRP £14.95 + VAT) – 5 TO WIN

Enter now - click, count and contact:
www.amecal.com/products.html

Email your entry to: david@amecal.com

Gloss Calibration News

Gloss Accreditation Adds Shine: But What Is It?

Gloss is often difficult to describe, let alone measure, and everyone has their own idea of what 'gloss' is. It's an important factor in quantifying the appearance of a product in many industries from plastics to cosmetics - in fact, anywhere the perception of a product is dependent on its reflective properties.



Gloss is an optical property related to the reflection of highlights - the ability of a surface to reflect light in a particular direction. Measuring it has to take into account a number of elements: the refractive index of the material, the angle of incident light and the surface topography.

It involves comparing the amount of reflected light from a sample, to that reflected from a black glass calibration standard with a defined refractive index. Several angles are used for measurement, with incident angles of 20, 60, and 85 degrees (for high, medium and low gloss surfaces respectively). Other angles are used for specific applications, such as 75 degrees for plastic film, and 45 degrees for vinyl siding.

The increasing importance of being able to quantify gloss, when in the past it has been simply subjective, has led to a large number of instruments being produced to measure it, but these are often sold, and calibrated, without traceability. That's a problem for companies with (sometimes very specific) obligations under standardized quality management systems like ISO 9001:2008.

Accredited calibration is becoming crucial as new requirements specify that traceability and competent measurements are demonstrated by accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

AMECaL were the first and are still the **only** UKAS Accredited Gloss Measurement laboratory.

Read the full article:
http://www.amecal.com/downloads/Gloss_Measurement_Shines.pdf

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Customer FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: IS THERE ANY PROBLEM WITH EXTENDING THE CALIBRATION PERIOD?



A: Aside from keeping your kit in good order, and within spec, it's extremely important for your business that it's regularly calibrated. After all, your reputation relies on it being accurate. For example, let's say that your Installation Tester was calibrated six months ago and that it appears to work perfectly. But imagine if it had bashed against the side of your van when you went over a nasty pothole four months ago and that put it out of spec. Any paperwork you've issued for the many jobs you've done since then is worthless and you could easily be blamed for any problems.

Q: SURELY YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING IT NEEDS CALIBRATING AFTER EVERY KNOCK?

A: You could do this, but the real question is: how do you minimise your risk between calibrations? Whatever you do, your annual calibration doesn't keep your equipment accurate all year round. The Certificate of Calibration is only a snapshot - it only shows that the equipment is within calibration parameters at that time. Maintaining accuracy on an ongoing basis is about keeping records of the results of testing over time - to help establish the likely accuracy of your instrument at any particular time. One way to do this between calibrations is to take measurements from a 'reference' circuit at set intervals. This is no substitute for professional calibration - but is a sensible step to reduce your risk.

Q: I OFTEN FORGET WHEN & HOW OFTEN CALIBRATION NEEDS TO BE DONE.

A: As a customer of ours, we always remind you - (free) when your equipment is due for calibration. We have powerful management software at AMECaL and you'll receive two reminders to save you having to remember when calibration is due.

How often you get it calibrated is a question of how much you use it, how well it's been treated, how closely you want to stick to standards / guidance and, ultimately, how much confidence you want to have in its accuracy and safety.

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