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## Metrology and Calibration Newsletter

### Issue 6

December 2016

#### Sveiki un laba diena

Jeepers, it's December already! I'm a bit late this time. Where did November go? I'm sure you all can relate.

Does anyone know any of languages (like Kurdish or Korean) in symbols other than the English alphabet? I'd like to include those in my newsletters but I don't really know if I trust Google translate! I hope my international greetings are going well so far.

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#### 40 years of Metric

Join in the celebrations of 40 years of the metric system, with the MSA/MBIE event in Wellington on 8 December. The MSA would like to invite all members and non-members to recognise this significant date in New Zealand measurement history.

**WHERE:** MBIE, Trading Standards head office 15 Stout Street, Wellington followed by Lunch and Guest Speaker at Boat Café, Oriental Bay, Wellington (transport provided).

**WHEN:** 12.45pm, arrive early to get good seat for a 'Ted Talk' style event to mark the

occasion. The hour long event starts at 1pm and will be open to the public.

**WHAT:** There will be a quick nod to the past by having a range of historical measuring instruments on display. The main event will feature four speakers presenting on the importance of measurement in their area (infectious diseases, speed cameras, satellites and electrical measurements). The lunchtime guest speaker is John Townend of Victoria University, Director EQC Programme in Seismology and Fault Movements.

**RSVP: Please email [cynthia.lendrum@callaghaninnovation.govt.nz](mailto:cynthia.lendrum@callaghaninnovation.govt.nz) to register ASAP.**

#### Update to ISO 17025 draft

Most of you will by now be aware that ISO/IEC 17025 is under review at the moment. I have been informed that the first public draft of the standard will be published for comment between 29 December 2016 and close on 22 March 2017. Please contact us if you would like more information.

#### PT Update

We have now completed our measurement audit for an analogue pressure gauge (coded MA15002). Thank you again to all the laboratories who have taken part. MA15001, for a current transformer, is still being

analysed but I have now received a report from MSL and will get onto re-analysing soon.

We have been pleased to see some really good relationships being formed (and maintained) by laboratories in similar fields working together to meet their requirements for PT, and setting up inter-laboratory comparisons. Please let me know if I can help with collating results, analysis and/or reporting.

Recently one of our temperature calibration laboratories initiated a simple comparison which involved a handful of accredited and non-accredited laboratories. We collated the results at IANZ and reported it. Thank you to the laboratory who organised and those who took part in this one too!

### IANZ tip #2: Review of received calibration reports

Recently we have noticed that a lot of labs are not adequately checking calibration reports which have been issued for their reference equipment. It means that sometimes there is the need to review, and potentially recall, work which has already been completed and reported in endorsed reports, because a piece of reference equipment has not been appropriately verified before being put back into service. For example, this might be a digital multi-meter sent to an external IANZ accredited laboratory for calibration. As you all know, an endorsement on a calibration report is a must, but it is not something which absolves the client laboratory of responsibility when it comes to ensuring the calibration and calibration report have met its requirements.

Does the report contain all the ranges and/or parameters you need? (If not, did you ask for the ones that you need?) Is the uncertainty presented in an understandable and appropriate way? Did the issuing laboratory issue any non-compliances or measurements in the window of uncertainty (WOU)? Does the report feature a suitable endorsement logo and statement?

These, amongst other things, will need to be reviewed on return of the equipment from calibration, before it is put back into service. The equipment and traceability clauses of ISO 17025 (5.5 and 5.6) include more information.

Just this morning I also read one of the [latest articles on the ISO Budgets blog](#), regarding measurement traceability. I highly recommend this read, with emphasis on the part about reviewing your calibration report!

### Surplus measurement equipment?

Do you have surplus testing equipment that could be donated to developing economies? The Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) is overseeing a project titled the 'APLMF instrument bank' which has been setup to provide laboratories a means to donate their surplus equipment to Laboratories in developing economies within Asia. The APLMF has secured funding from PTB, the National Metrology Institute of Germany, to support the transfer of the equipment that is found to be useful to the developing economies.

The MSA would like to invite all of its members in New Zealand the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile project. If you have identified any surplus equipment to be donated can you please (in Excel preferably) provide a description and explanation of it, along with a picture of each individual item or set and send this to [kevin.gudmundsson@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:kevin.gudmundsson@mbie.govt.nz) who will collate and quadrate the project for New Zealand. The equipment must be new or in near new working order.

### Fun Bits and Internet Stuff

This will be a regular feature so be sure to look here next time!

- A nice (and short) video, [Nobody's Exactly Sure How Much A Kilogram Is Right Now](#) with Tom Scott, including a visual analogy of the Watt balance;
- Tom Scott again, this time on the [British electrical grid](#) (some nice history here);
- Neat [Radio NZ interview](#) with marine scientist Ceridwen Fraser on the coastal lift from the Kaikoura quake.

Būtu laimīgs brīvdienas.  
Goodbye!

