

	<i>The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation</i>	
	P104 – Policy for Claims of Measurement Uncertainties for Field Calibrations on Scopes of Accreditation ¹	September 24, 2008 <hr/> Page 1 of 1

It is important that the scopes of accredited laboratories that perform calibrations on customers' sites do not contain potentially misleading values for **field** capabilities. The following points shall be observed:

- 1) A2LA staff shall ensure that the following disclaimer is included on all scopes of accreditation that include calibrations performed **in the field**.

DISCLAIMER

The uncertainties achievable on a customer's site can be expected to be larger than the Best Measurement Capabilities (BMC) that the accredited laboratory has been assigned as Best Uncertainty on the A2LA Scope. Allowance must be made for aspects such as the environment at the place of calibration and for other possible adverse effects such as those caused by transportation of the calibration equipment. The usual allowance for the uncertainty introduced by the item being calibrated, (e.g. resolution) must also be considered and this, on its own, could result in the calibration uncertainty being larger than the BMC.

- 2) A2LA assessors shall ensure that:
 - 2.1) The scope of an accredited laboratory shall clearly indicate which parameters are offered (or not offered) **in the field**. In cases where the best **field** and the best in-laboratory uncertainties are different, both uncertainties shall be given on the scope. The assessor shall ask to see the **field** uncertainty budgets and shall check that the components of uncertainty due to the environment are reasonable.

NOTE: It is often easier for the laboratory to specify environment tolerances outside which no work will be done. The assessor should check these tolerances to see that they are reasonable and consistent with equipment specifications.

- 2.2) In estimating the **field** uncertainties, the laboratory shall consider what is the best environment that can be expected at a customer's site.

- 2.3) The laboratory that performs calibrations on a customer's site shall make a full list of all the equipment that is transported. For each parameter, the laboratory shall define the BEST UNCERTAINTY that it can achieve with that transported equipment. (Effective as of April 30, 2003)

- 2.4) The laboratory shall comply with the requirements of *R104 – General Requirements: Accreditation of **Field** Testing and **Field** Calibration Laboratories Assessor Checklist*, especially with respect to the before/after checks. For the more stable items that do not need before/after checks, extra care shall be taken with in-service checks and more frequent visual inspections.

¹ The information contained in this policy document has been included in the revised document entitled *R104 – General Requirements: Accreditation of **Field** Testing and **Field** Calibration Laboratories*.

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