



Title: **Cirris Calibration Program**

Document type: **Definitions**

Document ID: **DEF-18**

Author: Gene Vought

Owner: Gene Vought

Approver(s): Gene Vought
approved at 2020-11-12 08:50 (UTC -0700)
Jon Rogers
approved at 2020-11-12 12:37 (UTC -0700)
Craig Taylor
approved at 2020-11-13 08:15 (UTC -0700)

Approval date: 2020-11-13

Effective date: 2020-11-13

1. Summary

This document outlines the Cirris Calibration Program and the elements within it.

Cirris Cable testers are designed and manufactured to function within published specifications, without the need of adjustments in the calibration process. If a Cirris tester fails to pass calibration, there are no adjustable components that can bring the cable tester back into calibration. Rather, the faulty tester module must be repaired or replaced before the unit will pass calibration.

While Cirris systems is not a calibration laboratory, it is the OEM of its own manufactured cable and harness test equipment. As the OEM, we only calibrate our own manufactured test equipment and have all the rights, responsibility and authority to do so. An OEM is not required to be certified as a calibration laboratory. In fact, the OEM's usually write the calibration processes that calibration laboratories to use to calibrate their equipment. It is not uncommon, that a calibration laboratory, when given a Cirris Tester, sends that Cirris test equipment, back to Cirris to be calibrated, then sends it on back to its customers at a much higher cost than if that customer would have just sent it to Cirris in the first place. Cirris calibration services are traceable to NIST. And follow the, MIL-STD-45662A and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1 calibration standards. And since we are not a calibration laboratory, ISO-17025 does not apply to us.

2. Process Definition

Calibration Standards Used

Measurement Uncertainty

3. Process Objectives and Metrics

In the past, suppliers of cables for military contracts were required to use test and measurement equipment that had been calibrated by a calibration laboratory meeting the requirements of MIL-STD45662A. In February of 1995 the United States Department of Defense cancelled MIL-STD-45662A in favor of either ANSI/NCSL Z540-1 or ISO 10012-1. Although cancelled in 1995, MIL-STD-45662A continued in many cases to be an interim standard while making the transition to Z540-1 and ISO 10012- 1, and ISO 17025 which is used for calibration laboratories.

Many commercial cable suppliers also want evidence of compliance to formal calibration standards.

At present, Cirris Systems follows both the MIL-STD-45662A and Z540-1 standards, and all certificates of calibration issued at this time reflect this calibration status. In June 1995 Cirris' quality system was registered by KEMA to ISO 9001:2000. As of May 2018, we are registered by Intertek and have met the requirements of the standard ISO 9001:2015 and AS9100. Therefore, Cirris' quality procedures, including calibration, are continually reviewed by both internal Cirris auditors and the external auditors representing Intertek.

4. Process Owners and Responsible Parties

VP of Operation is responsible for the calibration program at Cirris, with the assistance of the Quality Manager and Manufacturing Engineer as actual overseers of the working program.

5. Typical Process Inputs

Measurement Uncertainty

Cirris follows the guidance in ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994, paragraph 10.2(b)

"The laboratory shall ensure that the calibration uncertainties are sufficiently small so that the adequacy of the measurement is not affected. Well-defined and documented measurement assurance techniques or uncertainty

analyses may be used to verify the adequacy of a measurement process. If such techniques or analyses are not used, then the collective uncertainty of the measurement standards shall not exceed 25% of the acceptable tolerance (that is, manufacturer's specification) for each characteristic of the measuring and test equipment being calibrated or verified"; they will have traceable measurement.

This means that any standard used (in this case Cirris Performance Check Kits) to calibrate a tester, in the absence of more formal analysis as described in the paragraph above, must have at least 4 times more accuracy than the measurement specs of the Cirris tester being verified, including the tolerance "stack up" the accuracy of any NIST traceable instruments used and the accuracy impact of the least significant digit recorded by said instruments. Cirris' Performance Check Kits are manufactured and verified to meet or exceed this 4:1 ratio requirement.

Cirris provides calibration services for its test equipment; however, Cirris customers may elect to personally verify performance of their own cable testers by purchasing the appropriate performance check kit. Each performance check kit consists of verification adapters made with passive components, which have values traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the United States and ensures the 4:1 ratio of accuracy to comply to the ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994 standard. The performance check kits used for verification of Cirris high voltage cable testers

require an adequate customer supplied voltmeter. Since the verification adapters in performance check kits have only passive components and receive minimal wear in the field, a 2-year calibration interval is assigned to these adapters. At the end of the calibration interval, the verification adapters can be either re-verified annually or replaced. Damaged or worn verification adapters are not re-repairable and must be replaced.

6. Typical Process Steps

General Elements of Calibration Programs

Calibration programs, such as those described in MIL-STD-45662A, Z540-1, and ISO 10012-1, require that the procedure used to test and calibrate test equipment be written and that the personnel follow the written procedure. Generally, any test instrument used to calibrate another must be at least four times as accurate as the instrument being calibrated.

In addition, an instrument used to test another instrument must be traceable to the NIST standards. MIL-STD-45662A defines traceability as, "The ability to relate individual measurement results to national standards, or nationally accepted measurement systems through an unbroken chain of comparisons."

Each year calibration labs throughout the U.S. send a relatively small number of test instruments back to the NIST (National Institute of Standards & Technology) for calibration to extremely accurate specifications. Having the government provide the standard assures, in essence, that everyone uses the same yardstick. When the NIST confirms the accuracy of a test instrument's ability to measure a given unit, a NIST number is assigned to that instrument for that unit of measure. When returned to the calibration labs, these highly accurate test instruments are used by the calibration labs to calibrate other pieces of test equipment, which in turn are often used to test still other instruments, and so forth.

Maintaining the chain of traceability back to the NIST is more complex than what might seem on the outset. For example, detailed calibration records must be kept, and the four-to-one accuracy ratio described above must be insured.

Calibration intervals for each piece of equipment in the traceability chain must be maintained current. In addition, successive calibrations must be made under controlled conditions, with qualified personnel, who use valid and well defined procedures.

NIST numbers are sometimes displayed on calibration certificates to demonstrate some evidence of NIST traceability. In recent years some calibration laboratories have discontinued displaying NIST numbers on calibration certificates in order to reduce calibration costs. At this time Cirris does not receive NIST numbers on certificates for instruments used in calibration, and therefore cannot provide NIST numbers on calibration certificates for Cirris test equipment. Please note there is nothing in MILSTD-45662A, Z540-1, or ISO 10012-1 that

requires NIST numbers be maintained for each successive calibration to demonstrate traceability.

Assuring Traceability to NIST If you desire to audit the calibration system at Cirris, you may fax us the certificate of calibration for the Cirris cable tester you wish to be audited. Cirris will return to you the paperwork trail of Z540-1/MILSTD-45662A calibration certificates for that Cirris cable tester, back to a reputable calibration lab, such as Fluke or Hewlett Packard, which calibration laboratory Cirris has found in compliance with Z540-1 and MIL-STD-45662A. These calibration laboratories are traceable to the NIST, thus completing the calibration links back to the NIST. The fee for this service, along with the fee for replacing lost calibration certificates. Procedures are frequently reviewed by Cirris internal auditors as well as by Intertek. Cirris customers may also arrange to visit Cirris for an on-site audit.

7. Typical Process Outputs

Calibrated Cirris Equipment

8. Related Risks and Responsibilities

Calibration of any test equipment has its risks. A calibrated unit is only a snapshot of its status at the time it is measured for accuracy. It is not a year long calibration guarantee. Although Cirris goes to long lengths to ensure that the test equipment arrives back to its owners in a calibrated condition, we can not guarantee what happens after it leaves our hands. Shipping and handling after it leaves our facility is out of our control. As well as how it is handled in the customers facility.

9. Attachments

No attachments.