

How do I check that my probe thermometer is still performing within specification?

The Problem

You have purchased a probe thermometer and are using it to test a variety of areas and objects. However you are unsure as to whether it is still reading within specification and you want to be able to do a basic check in order to see if it is still operating as expected.

The Solution

The simplest and most effective way of checking the accuracy is to make an ice slurry. A procedure for doing this is detailed below:

- 1) Obtain a coffee mug or small container and quarter fill it with crushed ice
- 2) Add water and fill the mug until it is half full.
- 3) Allow the mix to sit for 2 minutes & stir for 10 seconds. Your ice slurry is now prepared.
- 4) From here place the probe of your thermometer to be tested into the ice slurry & slowly stir & wait for the temperature reading on the display to stabilise.
- 5) The temperature displayed should be 0°C +/-1°C (taking into account the written manufacturer's specification for the unit).
- 6) If the temperature is within -1°C to +1°C as per the manufacturer's specifications, then the thermometer is still within specification and can be returned to service.
- 7) If the thermometer displays greater than -1°C to +1°C the unit should be repaired, re-calibrated or replaced

It is worth noting this information should be recorded so that you have a written record of when this check was performed. Please record the following information when you perform this check (time, date, reading attained & who completed the check) as this will keep a running record of how the thermometer has performed over time. An example of how the check should be recorded is shown below:

Calibration Record for[0560-1113](#) – Kitchen - 203923.....(type of thermometer or where it is used, it may also pay to include a serial number if you are using a number of thermometers)

Date	Time	Reading	Accuracy specification of Thermometer	Action Taken	Person Performing check
25/07/2014	15:45	0.6°C	±1°C	Returned to service	DM

If you find that your thermometer is out of specification it can be returned to us for [recalibration](#) if an adjustment is possible or we also offer a wide range of replacement thermometers that can be viewed [here](#).

If you need any assistance selecting a thermometer for your requirements or wish to discuss this thermometer check further please feel free to contact one of our friendly Scientists via [email](#) or phone on 1300 737 871.