

	The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation	
	P104 – Policy for Claims of Measurement Uncertainties for Field Calibrations on Scopes of Accreditation¹	Document Revised: February 4, 2016
		Page 1 of 2

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 Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC) that the accredited laboratory has been assigned as the CMC 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 CMC.

- 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. The assessor shall ask to see the field uncertainty budgets to determine that they meet A2LA [R205 - Specific Requirements: Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Program](#) section 6.7 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 *Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC)* that it can achieve with that transported equipment.

- 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.

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		Page 2 of 2

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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APPENDIX A - Document Revision History

Date	Description
02/04/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed 2.1 second sentence “In cases where the best field and the best in-laboratory uncertainties are different, both uncertainties shall be given on the scope.” • Added “to determine that they meet A2LA R205 - Specific Requirements: Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Program section 6.7” to section 2.1, second sentence. • Updated new A2LA logo and changed font to Century Schoolbook