



April 9, 2004

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2004.09

Subject: Field Methods—Calibration thermometers

The following guidance updates the protocol (National Field Manual, Chapter 6.1) for the allowable types and use of calibration thermometers. Changes reflecting this protocol have been incorporated into the online publication of Section 6.1 of the National Field Manual as "Version 1.2." The intent of this change in protocol is to sanction use of NIST-traceable thermometers, in addition to that of NIST-certified thermometers, for calibration of field temperature sensors, but only under the conditions specified below.

Thermometers to be used for the annual calibration and periodic checks of field thermometers, including liquid-in-glass and meter-thermistor thermometers, must be either NIST-certified or carry a certificate of NIST traceability. These thermometers may only be used before the expiration date of certification. Field personnel are responsible for determining and monitoring the true time period for which their calibration thermometer is certified. For example, although the Daigger Traceable Digital Thermometer (Cat. No. 3822) comes with a certificate of NIST traceability that is good for two years, the manufacturer currently discounts one year of certification for the instrument sitting in a warehouse. **Thermometers for which NIST traceability or certification has expired may not be used for calibration after the expiration date and must be replaced or recertified.**

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