



FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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FRWA Whitepaper Frequency for Water Plant Meter Calibration & Testing

By Sterling L. Carroll, P.E., FRWA Engineer

FDEP revises the annual meter calibration policy and recommends testing water plant meters every three to five years to be consistent with Water Management District requirements. Rule 62-555.350(2), F.A.C., requires water treatment plants calibrate meters in “accordance with the equipment manufacturer’s recommendations or in accordance with [the water system’s] written preventive maintenance program.” A majority of manufacturers recommend that meters be calibrated on annual basis and this led to a policy of yearly testing. After consideration and discussion FDEP has concluded that the annual meter calibration policy could be relaxed and that the frequency of meter calibrations be in harmony with Water Management Districts’ requirements, please see the FDEP email and table below.

FDEP Statement

*From: John R. Sowerby, FDEP Water Engineer
 Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011
 To: John Pope; Van Hoofnagle
 Cc: Scott Grubbs; Gary Williams
 Subject: RE: Plant / Finished Water Meter Testing*

Appendix A to AWWA Standard C704 includes average recommended intervals between meter tests. However, Appendix A is not a part of AWWA Standard C704. Also, AWWA Standard C704 is enforceable under FAC Rule 62-555.330 only during design/permitting/construction. You probably know / understand all of this.

Many small water systems might use a single meter to measure raw/finished water flow to meet both Water Management District requirements and our requirements. In general, the Water Management Districts require that the calibration of raw-water flow meters be checked every 3 to 5 years as indicated below.

<i>Water Management District (WMD)</i>	<i>Required Minimum Frequency for Checking Calibration of Raw-Water Flow Meters</i>
<i>Northwest Florida WMD</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Suwanee River WMD</i>	<i>Every 5 years</i>
<i>St. Johns River WMD</i>	<i>Every 3 years</i>
<i>Southwest Florida WMD</i>	<i>Every 5 years</i>
<i>South Florida WMD</i>	<i>Every 5 years</i>

To be consistent with the Water Management Districts, we recommend that the calibration of [raw and] finished-water flow meters be checked every 3 to 5 years.

FRWA’s Encourages Frequent Meter Calibration. Water systems may wish to calibrate raw and water plant meters more frequently than every three to five years in order to maintain meter accuracy for water accountability, revenue collection, and to audit / identify any unaccounted for water. Water meter calibration providers are available for hire and willing to help you should your FRWA Water Circuit Rider be otherwise occupied assisting members with high priority compliance issues that impact public health, safety, environment, monitoring, public notices, enforcement, and/or issues that are related to the Safe Drinking Water Act.



Strap-On Ultrasonic Meter for Calibration



Data Logger for Meter Calibration / Testing