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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TECHNICAL BULLETIN

CALIBRATION PROCEDURE FOR CROSS-CHECKS, INTERCOMPARISONS, AND VISUAL INSPECTIONS

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REPORTING OF ERRORS AND RECOMMENDING IMPROVEMENTS

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SECTION I GENERAL

1. Purpose. This bulletin provides guidance and procedures applicable to the cross-checks, intercomparisons, and visual inspections of measurement standards.

2. Applicability. This bulletin is applicable to all TMDE support activities (TSA), Army National Guard (ARNG), and Government owned contractor operated facilities (GOCO), except the U.S. Army Primary Standards Laboratory (APSL).

3. Definitions

a. Cross-check. A secondary transfer level functional comparison between selected measurement standards to verify that no significant departure from assigned tolerances has occurred.

b. Intercomparison. A secondary reference level functional comparison, or operational check, between measurement standards to verify that no significant departure from assigned tolerances has occurred.

c. Visual Inspection. The physical inspection of a measurement standard for apparent damage.

4. Policy

a. Cross-checks will be performed on designated transfer level measurement standards, or equivalents, to verify the standards have not been damaged or accuracy degraded during shipment and/or to prevent out-of-tolerance standards from being used to perform calibrations.

b. Intercomparison checks will be performed by all reference level activities and activities with reference level or higher capabilities. The intercomparison check is required on reference level measurement standards being calibrated by the equipment manufacturer or higher calibration activity. All items in the APSL Exchange Package (APSLEP) will be intercompared and documented. This intercomparison will encompass enough cardinal points to convince the person performing the intercomparison that the item meets all required specifications.

c. A visual inspection will be performed on measurement standards that are received from another calibration activity not located in the same building. These inspections are performed to assure that standards have not been damaged or degraded during transportation.