

FT 1400. Field Measurement of Temperature

The use of this SOP is not required when using field temperature measurement devices to monitor groundwater stabilization during the purging of groundwater monitoring wells. Field temperature measurement devices used for temperature compensation (correction) for other measurements such as dissolved oxygen, specific conductance or pH are also exempted from the requirements of this SOP. FT 1400 must be used for all other field temperature measurements required by DEP.

Use this SOP in conjunction with the following DEP SOPs:

- FT 1000 General Field Testing and Measurement
- FQ 1000 Field Quality Control Requirements
- FS 1000 General Sampling Procedures
- FD 1000 Documentation Procedures

1. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

1.1. Field Instruments: Use any of the following instrument types for performing field measurements:

- Digital thermistor (thermocouple type) and meter typical of field instruments
- Glass bulb, mercury-filled thermometer (not recommended for field ruggedness)
- Glass bulb, alcohol-filled thermometer with protective case
- Bi-metal strip/dial-type thermometer
- Advanced silicon chip temperature sensor and digital meter

1.1.1. Field instruments must be capable of measuring temperature in 0.1°C increments.

1.2. Standard Thermometer: NIST-traceable Celsius certified thermometer with scale marks for every 0.1°C increment, a range of 0°C to 100°C (or a range bracketing expected sample temperatures) and correction chart supplied with certification. The standard thermometer must have a valid certification for the period of measurement.

1.3. Recordkeeping and Documentation Supplies:

- Field notebook or forms \
- Indelible pens

2. CALIBRATION AND USE

2.1. General Concerns

2.1.1. Select a temperature measuring device meeting the requirements of section 1.1 above.

2.1.2. Dial-type and thermocouple-type devices with meters are preferred over the glass thermometers for fieldwork because of their durability and ease of reading.

2.1.2.1. Transport glass thermometers in protective cases.

2.1.2.2. Inspect glass thermometers for liquid separation. Do not use a thermometer if the liquid has separated.

2.1.2.3. Most instruments with digital display will provide more decimal figures than are significant. Record the temperature reading with only one rounded decimal figure (e.g., 25.9 instead of 25.86°C).

2.2. Calibration

2.2.1. Follow the calibration activities specified in FT 1000, section 2.2.

2.2.2. Verify all thermistor (meter) devices and field thermometers against the NIST-traceable standard thermometer at several temperatures in the expected sample measurement range, using any correction factor indicated by the certificate supplied with the NIST-traceable thermometer.

2.2.2.1. See the US Geological Survey, National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data, Book 9, Chapter A6, Field Measurements, Section 6.1, Temperature, Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations, 4/98 for additional guidance about making temperature comparisons with the standard thermometer.

2.2.2.2. Make note of the calibration in the calibration records. See section 4 below.

2.2.2.3. The field measurement device may be used with a linear correction factor provided that the observed temperature difference with the standard thermometer is documented at incremental temperatures over the range of expected sample temperatures.

2.2.2.4. Use the resulting correction factor when making temperature measurements of samples with the field measurement device.

2.2.2.5. Prominently display the correction factor on the field measurement device, with the date last verified. A calibration correction curve or plot may also be used.

2.2.2.6. To be acceptable, a calibration verification must be within +/- 0.5°C of the corrected reading of the NIST-traceable thermometer.

2.2.2.7. Properly dispose of glass-bulb thermometers that do not meet the above calibration acceptance criteria.

2.2.3. Continuing Calibration Verifications:

2.2.3.1. Determine the maximum time between continuing calibration verifications for the specific field temperature measurement device based on instrument stability.

2.2.3.2. Verify the field measurement device against the standard NIST-traceable thermometer as in section 2.2.2 above.

2.2.4. Refer to additional calibration requirements in FT 1000, section 2.2.

2.2.5. More frequent calibration verifications may be required for discharge permit compliance measurements or other regulatory requirements.

2.3. Measuring Sample Temperature

2.3.1. Insert or place the thermometer or sensor *in situ* at a measuring location representative of the sampling source.

2.3.2. Allow the thermometer or temperature sensor to equilibrate to ambient *in situ* temperature.

2.3.2.1. Groundwater samples must be measured *in situ* with a downhole probe or in a flow-through container. Do not measure bailed or pumped samples in an intermediate container containing static sample.

2.3.3. Record the temperature to the nearest 0.1°C after the reading stabilizes and remains constant.

3. PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE: Refer to FT 1000, section 3.

4. DOCUMENTATION

4.1. Standards Documentation: Document information about the NIST-traceable standard thermometer in the calibration record, including:

- Unique identification for the thermometer
- Vendor certificate of calibration, including any correction factor
- Vendor's expiration date for the certificate of calibration

4.2. Field Instrument Calibration Documentation: Document acceptable calibration and calibration verification for each instrument unit and field test or analysis, linking this record with affected sample measurements.

4.2.1. Retain vendor certifications of all factory-calibrated instrumentation.

4.2.2. Designate the identity of specific instrumentation in the documentation with a unique description or code for each instrument unit used.

4.2.2.1. Record manufacturer name, model number, and identifying number such as a serial number for each instrument unit.

4.2.3. Record the time and date of all initial calibrations and all calibration verifications.

4.2.4. Record the instrument reading (value in appropriate measurement units) of all calibration verifications.

4.2.5. Record the name of the analyst(s) performing the calibration.

4.2.6. Document the following information about initial calibration and calibration verifications and link to information recorded according to section 4.1 above:

- Details of the method used to compare the field measurement device to the NIST-traceable standard thermometer.
- Results of each calibration verification, including the expected reading (per the NIST-traceable standard thermometer)
- The actual reading of the field measurement device, using any established correction factors and correct units.

4.2.7. Retain manufacturers' instrument specifications.

4.2.8. Document whether successful initial calibration occurred.

4.2.9. Document whether each calibration verification passed or failed.

4.2.10. Document any corrective actions taken to correct instrument performance (such as a new correction factor) according to records requirements of FD 3000.

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4.2.10.1. Document date and time of any corrective action.

4.2.10.2. Note any incidence of discontinuation of use of the instrument due to calibration failure.

4.2.11. Describe or cite the specific calibration or verification procedure performed (DEP SOP or internal SOP).

4.3. Record all field-testing measurement data, to include the following:

- Project name
- Date and time of measurement or test (including time zone, if applicable)
- Source and location of the measurement or test sample (e.g., monitoring well identification number, outfall number, station number or other description)
- Latitude and longitude of sampling source location (if required)
- Analyte or parameter measured
- Measurement or test sample value
- Reporting units
- Initials or name of analyst performing the measurement
- Unique identification of the specific instrument unit(s) used for the test(s)