

3.3 CALIBRATION

All members of the UKWF that offer calibration services are obliged under conditions of membership to comply with the calibration codes of practice. There is one code of practice for NAWIs and another for cementitious product batching equipment.

Compliance with the codes will be monitored by the UKWF. In general, those members registered to ISO 9001:2008 will be required to incorporate the codes of practice into their quality control system and declare their compliance by questionnaire. Those members not registered will be required to undergo a regular audit. The codes themselves will also be subject to regular review by the UKWF. Any companies registered to ISO 9001:2008 or accredited by UKAS are likely to have additional requirements defined by their quality systems.

For any equipment used for controlled purposes the Weights and Measures Act 1985 and associated regulations will apply. The legislative requirements will always take precedence; members are required to act in accordance with the legislation and if equipment is found to be in breach, whether through calibration or any other considerations, members are required to inform the customer and notify them of their legal obligations or to seek advice from a Trading Standards Officer.

The tolerances of the test weights to be used will depend on the instrument to be calibrated. Both codes of practice give requirements and recommendations and section 3.2 of the Technical Articles on weights reproduces a table from UKAS guide LAB 14 giving recommendations of test weight tolerances.

The acceptable tolerances for the instrument being calibrated are subject to agreement with the customer. Again, legislative requirements take precedence and the codes of practice give recommended tolerances otherwise.

The scope of the calibration tests and procedures is similarly subject to agreement with the customer. The NAWI code of practice defines a series of tests and classifies them as “mandatory”, “recommended” and “optional” depending on whether it is an initial or a routine calibration. The following table is reproduced from the UKWF NAWI calibration code of practice, edition 4:

Test	Initial Calibration	Routine Calibration
Repeatability	Recommended	Recommended
Eccentric Loading	Mandatory	Mandatory
Linearity / Hysteresis	Mandatory	Mandatory
Weighing with Tare	Recommended	Optional
Sensitivity	Recommended	Optional

Please refer to the codes of practice for more detailed information.