



HEXAGON

Understanding Calibration vs. Certification

Author: Amir Grinboim, Product Manager, Commercial Services, Hexagon

In our March edition, we are initiating a focused exploration of industry standards for certifications, a theme that will extend into future editions. Understanding the correct terminology is crucial for requesting the appropriate services for your devices. This begins with identifying the differences between certification and calibration.

To put it simply, *certification* is a report detailing the "as found" conditions of your device (also known as "After"), whereas calibration is a corrective process designed to restore your device's performance to the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) specifications.

The core definition remains consistent across the various product types, however, with Hexagon's MyCare offering for stationary CMMs, service engineers may perform minor adjustments to align the device with specifications during the certification process. In contrast, for articulated arms, for example, the certification process involves only documenting the "as found" conditions **without** making any adjustments. An example of a minor adjustment that may be performed during the certification process are squareness adjustments that are done with a ball bar as the technicians work through the process.

It is also important to note that if certification results are not acceptable, calibration is necessary to achieve the required performance levels for your device.

In conclusion, understanding the distinction between certification and calibration is essential for ensuring your devices operate at their optimal performance levels. By recognizing these differences, you can make informed decisions about the services needed for your devices, whether they are stationary or portable. As we continue to explore these industry standards in future editions, we aim to equip you with the knowledge necessary to maintain the precision and reliability of your equipment.

Certification vs Calibration

