

MINIMUM WEIGHT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The FDA (Food & Drug Administration) requires that a balance be clearly labelled with the minimum weighing range based on the instrument specification and performance. Section 41 of the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) applies.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Section 41 stipulates that the minimum amount weighed may not be less than 1000 times the uncertainty or 0.1% and with a confidence level of 99.9% (equivalent to 3 standard deviations). In addition it is advised that a minimum sample weight should not be less than 1000 divisions. In order to calculate the minimum weight range you therefore need to know the standard deviation at the place of use.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Most organisations that comply with FDA requirements have either: -

- IQ/ OQ validation of the balance which includes a UKAS calibration certificate
- OR**
- A UKAS calibration certificate on installation.

With either of these options we will calculate the minimum weight and if requested apply a label to the instrument. The minimum weight is then recalculated at each subsequent calibration visit.

Many manufacturers now incorporate a minimum weight feature in the balances software. When the operator tries to weigh below the designated minimum weight for that balance a warning will be displayed

WHAT DOES IT COST?

European Instruments can install instruments purchased from us and offer a IQ/OQ validation or UKAS certification service together with the Minimum Weight calculation. Our list price for IQ/OQ validation is £120 (£50 if a UKAS calibration client). UKAS installation is free for clients holding a UKAS calibration agreement with us. The minimum weight is calculated at subsequent UKAS calibration visits at no additional cost.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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