

Frequently Asked Questions: Calibration

Do I need to calibrate my Stage Micrometer (or Long Scale/Grid)?

Calibration is needed if required by your company procedures. In general, an accurate measurement is recommended not only to achieve an acceptable level of quality and efficiency, but also to satisfy both the demands of direct customers and the broader requirements for international trade (such as ISO). For consistency, such measurements should be traceable to International Standards.

What is the difference between a S-type & PS-type Stage Micrometer?

S-type Stage Micrometers (Example: the S8), are used for general purpose microscopy and are mounted into a black anodised aluminium slide. This is a cost-effective slide generally used for education purposes. PS-type Stage Micrometers (Example: the PS8) are our professional range of products mounted on robust stainless steel slides and supplied in a wooden case. With a unique engraved serial number, they are highly recommended when a traceable certificate is required.

How often is calibration required?

This will be dictated by your internal procedures or requirements of your industry. We follow the general consensus of having your calibration artefact (Stage Micrometer, Long Scale, Grid) re-calibrated every two years, as this is the most commonly accepted validity period.

What Certificate should I have?

We offer three types of certificates. NPL and UKAS certificates both carry out measurements at selected points on the scales and grids and are the ones to choose if you need a fully traceable certificate of calibration to international standards.

For applications that do not require the traceability provided by a NPL or UKAS certificate, Graticules Optics can provide a certificate of comparison (Graticules Certificate), the scale is compared with NPL calibrated in-house standards and a statement is provided on the accuracy of the item with respect to these standards. This certification is not directly traceable to ISO17025 standards.

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What's the difference between a UKAS and NPL Certificate?

Both Certificates are UKAS Certificates traceable to international standards and will satisfy the requirements of NIST, DIN, Cofrac, Accredito Laboratory and all other National Metrology Institutes across the world and provide compliance for ISO17025.

The only difference is, a UKAS Certificate is issued by a UKAS accredited laboratory whereas the NPL Certificate is a UKAS Certificate issued by the prestigious National Physical Laboratory.

Can I have a certificate of calibration on an Eyepiece Reticle?

An Eyepiece Reticle is not commonly calibrated as it will be subjected to magnification that may vary in different instruments. Best practice is to have a Stage Micrometer with a UKAS Certificate that will be used to calibrate the whole microscope including the Eyepiece Reticle itself.

Where can I re-calibrate my Stage Micrometer, Long Scale or Grid?

After notifying us by email to confirm price, etc., you can send your product for re calibration to Graticules Optics, 17-19 Morley Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1RN, UK.

We will proceed with the required calibration and send you back your product with the certificate.

How long does it take to calibrate my Stage Micrometer, Long Scale or Grid?

A starting date and a validity period will be stated on the certificate, that's why certificates of calibration are not stock items and will be subjected to lead times. Here are the average lead times for certificates to be issued:

- Graticules Certificate: 1-3 weeks
- UKAS Certificate: on average 3 weeks lead time. On busy periods it can go up to 4-5 weeks.
- NPL Certificate: on average 4-5 weeks lead time



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Can I expedite my Calibration?

Calibrations cannot be expedited, once you have placed your order, we will inform you of the current lead times. We generally advise our customer to have two sets of Stage Micrometers (or any other calibration artefact) to always have one in hand when the other is being calibrated.



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