



Montana Immunization Program

Data Logger Calibration Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How often must data loggers be calibrated?

Data loggers in the Montana VFC Program must be calibrated at least every two years. Some calibration labs may specify how long the calibration is valid with a “due date” for the next calibration. This is called the calibration interval. Be sure to clarify the calibration interval with the lab and always try to get a calibration valid for two years.

- If the certificate has a due date less than or equal to two years from the testing date, recalibrate by the due date.
- If the certificate has a due date greater than two years from the testing date, recalibrate within two years of the testing date. We do not allow calibration intervals longer than two years regardless of the due date on the certificate.
- If the certificate does not have a due date, recalibrate within two years of the testing date.

How much does it cost to calibrate a data logger and how long does it take?

Calibrations typically cost from \$40 to \$60 per device. There may be additional charges for shipping and for a “loaner” to use while your data logger is being calibrated (if you choose that option).

The calibration process can take from one week to a month depending on the lab. The calibration lab will provide details on the services they offer and instructions on how to ship your data logger.

What are the requirements of a certificate of calibration?

To show compliance with international standards, the certificate of calibration must either:

- Indicate the testing was done by an ILAC MRA¹ calibration lab OR
- Include a statement saying the testing followed one of the following standards:
 - ISO IEC 17025
 - ASTM Standard E2877 tolerance Class F
 - NIST traceability
 - Other Immunization Program approved accuracy validation method (Contact us).

Certificates also must include:

- The name of the calibration lab or entity
- Device make/model and unique identifier (e.g., device number, serial number etc.)
- Date of calibration testing
- Confirmation that the device passed testing with an accuracy of $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 0.5°C .

¹ International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperative – Mutual Recognition Arrangement

- Optional - [Calibration due date](#). Some calibration labs may include a calibration “due date” indicating how long the calibration is valid (i.e., calibration interval).

Providers are responsible for calibration certificates and must submit them when they register them with the Immunization Program and make them available for review during VFC site visits.

How do we find a calibration lab?

We recommend contacting the manufacturer or distributor of your data logger. They may offer calibration services or be able to recommend a lab. Another option, is to choose a lab from this [list of accredited calibration labs](#) compiled by the California Immunization Program.

Can our internal bioengineering/maintenance/facilities department perform the calibrations?

Yes, as long as they follow international standards and issue a certificate for each data logger with the [required information](#).

Can a calibration entity come to our facility to calibrate our data loggers?

Yes, as long as they follow international standards and issue a certificate for each data logger with the [required information](#).

How do we notify the Immunization Program that we have new data loggers or that our data loggers have been recalibrated?

Use the link below to register your new or recalibrated data loggers with us. Submit a separate report for each device you are registering. You will need the calibration certificates. You can either upload a digital version with the registration for, fax them to 406-442-4848, or email them to lhutchinson@mt.gov .

[Data Logger Registry](#)