



PO BOX 180, WATFORD, WD19 5JD

Tel. 01923 220206 www.quicktest.co.uk

The following does not apply to balances approved for use in trade, which must be sent back to us for calibration, and which should be checked using a high-quality weight.

CALIBRATION

Calibration (in a weighing machine) is the matching of the reading to a unit of weight. If the balance goes out of calibration it will still give higher readings with higher weights¹, but those readings will no longer be 'grams' or 'ounces' and so the balance will be useless. It then needs to be recalibrated.

Every balance will go out of calibration given enough time or if bumped or dropped. In the scientific industry balances have the calibration checked every year. That is why every balance in a laboratory or hospital has a sticky tab with the date it was last checked, a technician will call, and he will charge £75.00 per hour. However, if you have just bought a low-value balance, it is cheaper to recalibrate it yourself. Buy a weight and follow the recalibration instructions in the instruction leaflet.

SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT CALIBRATION

Every now and again check the balance to see if it is reading correctly. If you don't have any weights, use coins: 5p=3.25g, 1p=3.56g, 10p=6.5g, 2p=7.12g, 20p=5g, 50p=8g, £1=9.5g, £2=12g. For instance, one £2 coin + four £1 coins = 50g. The recalibration instructions can be complicated, you must follow them precisely or you will make it worse. *IF IT IS READING CORRECTLY, LEAVE IT ALONE! IF THE BALANCE IS NEW IT WILL STILL BE FACTORY-CALIBRATED, LEAVE IT ALONE!*

How often you have to check the balance...depends. Very approximately, if you paid over £400.00, check it every two or three years; if you paid under £400.00, check it about once a year. Low-value balances are not so reliable: if you paid about £50.00, check it every few months; if you paid about £20.00, check it every few weeks; if you paid about £10.00 there really is no guarantee that it will stay in calibration from one day to the next, this is not a fault, you get what you pay for.

You can recalibrate it yourself, you will need a weight (see the instruction manual to find out which weight), this is not included with the balance, you *will* have to find one or buy one (typical price, £5.00 or £10.00 including postage). Please keep the instruction leaflet in a safe place, it includes the recalibration instructions.

Alternatively, if it is under guarantee, send it back to us and we will recalibrate it for free. Obviously, if we can't recalibrate it we will replace it, since it is still under guarantee. If it is not under guarantee our charge for recalibration is £5.00 + return-postage (£4.50 up to 2Kg or £7.50 over 2Kg). It's usually cheaper to buy a calibration weight and do it yourself.

APPROVED BALANCES

To check an approved² balance, buy a weight, do not improvise with piles of coins. If it is inaccurate, you cannot recalibrate it yourself, you will have to send it back to us and we will send it to an approved laboratory (the charge is £100.00 + plus postage + VAT).

¹ Some balances display an error code instead.

² "Approved" means approved for use in trade by the Weights & Measures Authority (part of Trading Standards), if you are buying and selling precious metals by weight, you need to buy one that is approved to a standard called CLASS 2 .