

# CAN YOU TRUST YOUR CMM?

Calibrating your CMM on a regular schedule is important and necessary, but it's not enough.

CMMs can drift out of specification over time, or they can be thrown off by a crash or other sudden event—all without your knowing it.

If an annual recalibration shows your machine to be out of spec, you'll be left asking yourself this question: have we been shipping bad parts—or scrapping good ones—and for how long?

Calibrating the CMM more frequently would alleviate this problem. But a full-fledged CMM calibration is expensive and can take the machine out of service for days or even weeks.

The Interim Artifact Check, originally developed by NIST, is a quick, economical way to avoid this predicament. Measuring a traceable test artifact and comparing your results with its verified dimensions can point out potential problems with your CMM before they affect your bottom line.

In a typical testing setup a calibrated ball bar is held in a fixture mounted to the CMM table. The CMM performs a series of pro-

grammed measurements of the ball bar in various positions, and the results are compared to the artifact's known dimensions.

The whole process can usually be done quickly enough—often in a half-hour or less—that even weekly checks are feasible. And because the artifact check tests the CMM and all its components at once rather than separately, problems that might not show up under separate calibrations may be revealed.

Interim checking is neither equivalent to nor a substitute for recertification of a CMM—but, properly performed, can be reliable enough to permit calibration as needed rather than on a fixed schedule.

Both the ASME B89 and ISO 10360 standards strongly recommend periodic use of the IAC.

To learn more about how Interim Artifact Check can improve your process, boost your bottom line, and give you peace of mind, call us today.



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**The PQI Interim  
Artifact Check  
reveals potential  
CMM problems  
and protects your  
bottom line.**



**The IAC package  
includes everything  
you need to keep tabs  
on your CMM between  
calibrations for only**

**\$4995**

**PART #: CMM IAC**

**Ask us about Interim Artifact Checking for vision CMMs, too!**