YSI Model 50B/AutoEZ DO Meter Calibration and Probe Maintenance

1. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

    1.1. Calibration

        1.1.1. YSI 50B DO Meter with probe (S/N 96D49137)

        1.1.2. BOD AutoEZ Reader w/YSI probes (S/N A0089)

        1.1.3. BOD bottles and tray

        1.1.4. Computer with BOD AutoEZ program – see SOP BB-33 for program setup

    1.2. Maintenance

        1.2.1. New membrane cap

        1.2.2. Sanding disc

2. REAGENTS AND STANDARDS

    2.1. Deionized water

    2.2. Electrolyte solution

    2.3. 14% Ammonium Hydroxide

        2.3.1. Add 14 mL of concentrated ammonium hydroxide to 86 mL of DI water.

3. YSI MODEL 50B DO METER CALIBRATION

    3.1. Turn on the YSI 50B meter by turning the switch to the **°C** position and allow the temperature to stabilize. Make sure the probe is dry and place in a BOD bottle containing at least 1 inch of water.

    3.2. Turn the switch to the **mg/L** position. Allow the system to stabilize for at least 15 minutes.

    3.3. Turn the switch to **mg/L CAL** and press the [CAL] button. Turn the switch back to the **mg/L** position. The display will show "CAL" and then will display the reading. If the reading drifts more than ±0.02 mg/L, allow more stabilization time and repeat the calibration.

    3.4. Compare the reading to a DO Saturation table and record measurements in the "BODCalibration_v102408.xls" log file located in \\fldep1\DEAR\Labs\Lab5\Biology\Bench Common\BOD folder. If the reading differs by more than 0.30 mg/L from the measurement given in the DO saturation table, check the probe and recalibrate.

4. BOD AUTOEZ DO METER CALIBRATION

    4.1. Prepare 4 BOD bottles with air saturated water. Vigorously shake the container of water for at least one minute before pouring the water into the bottles to ensure air

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saturation of water. Use the YSI 50B Meter to measure the DO of each bottle and record in the BOD Calibration log. The readings should be within 1 mg/L of the DO Saturation table value. If not, reaerate the water and repeat the process.

4.2. Place the bottles in a tray and load the tray into the AutoEZ reader. In the BOD AutoEZ program, select **Read/Manual Controller** from the menu. Move the probes to the appropriate row, over the BOD bottles.

4.3. Click the "Calibrate" button, type in the average of the 4 bottle readings (in calibration log), and click "OK". Click the "Read DO" button and record the DO readings and standard deviation in the BOD calibration log. Each reading should not differ by more than 0.3 mg/L from the Set Gain value. The standard deviation should not be greater than 0.05. If readings fail either criterion, check the probes and recalibrate. If the recalibration also fails, the probe should be checked. It may need to a new membrane or cleaning. Do not use the probe for analysis until it passes a calibration check.

5. PROBE MAINTENANCE

5.1. The DO probes should be checked quarterly, or if meter fails to calibrate, or readings are erratic or unstable.

5.2. Disconnect the probe from the DO meter and unscrew the membrane cap from the probe. Be careful not to touch any of the exposed surfaces on the electrode. Rinse the electrode head with a gentle stream of DI water.

5.3. If the gold cathode is tarnished, clean it by rubbing it in a twisting motion on the sanding disc until all deposits are removed.

5.4. If the silver anode is dirty, clean it by soaking for 2-3 minutes in a 14% ammonium hydroxide solution. Alternatively, soak the probe overnight in a 3% ammonium hydroxide solution. After cleaning, rinse the probe with DI water.

5.5. If the membrane is stretched, wrinkled, or damaged, replace it with a new membrane.

5.6. Fill the membrane cap with electrolyte solution. Make sure there are no bubbles in the solution and screw the cap back onto the probe. Do not tighten the cap too much, because it can overstretch or tear the membrane. Rinse any excess electrolyte solution. Examine the outside of the membrane, if any bubbles are visible, remove the membrane cap and repeat this step.

5.7. Reconnect the probe to the DO meter and leave it on overnight.

6. DATA ARCHIVAL

6.1. Record any maintenance or problems with the probe or meter in the *BOD Instrument Maintenance Log*.

7. REFERENCES

7.1. YSI Model 50B Instruction Manual

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7.2. AutoEZ User's Manual

7.3. YSI 5905/5010 BOD Probe Instruction Manual

APPENDIX OF CHANGES

07/08/2009	Updated SOP style. Updated SOP to the current procedure of using YSI readings to calibrate Auto EZ probes.
10/28/2010	Added probe maintenance section.
01/14/2015	Formatted for 508 compliance
02/24/2015	updated to reflect new file location.

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