Pressure calibration

Pressure calibration is the comparison of the output of a device used to measure pressure with that of another pressure measurement device, or pressure measurement standard. This usually involves plumbing the unit under test (UUT) to the standard device and generating a common pressure in the measurement circuit. The outputs of the devices are compared at one or more pressures, typically from the lowest to highest readings of the UUT's full scale range, or the range over which it is normally used.

The comparison process can be performed in a chain from the highest level of fundamental pressure realization down to everyday pressure measurement devices, such as analog gauges, transducers and transmitters, to ensure that pressure measurements are accurate and comply with accepted or mandated standards.

The test fluid inside a pressure calibration system may be liquid or gas depending on the application. In general, gas (usually compressed nitrogen or air) is used for cleanliness and precision at lower pressures, and liquids (usually oil or water) are often used for safety, leak integrity, and ease of pressure generation at higher pressures above 7 MPa to 21 MPa (1000 psi to 3000 psi). There is a great deal of overlap in the actual ranges for which liquid or gas may be used practically, as reflected in the range of Fluke Calibration instruments that are specialized for each type of test fluid.