

TMI's Position on NIST Numbers

Many customers have inquired as to the use of NIST test report numbers. This is an old practice that has no basis in any quality standard and their reporting has been suspended by most calibration facilities, including TMI. **The reporting of a "NIST number" does not provide evidence that the measurement value is traceable.** This has been addressed by the metrology community as follows:

¹National Conference of Standards Laboratories (NCSL) Position Statement 96-1:

"It is the position of the National Conference of Standards Laboratories (NCSL) that: Test report numbers issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the United States Department of Commerce are intended to be used solely for administrative purposes. Although they are often used to uniquely identify documents which bear evidence of traceability, test report numbers should not be used nor required as proof of the adequacy or traceability of a test or measurement.

²NIST GMP 13 Good Measurement Practice for Ensuring Metrological Traceability

"Test numbers issued by NIST should not be used nor required as proof of the adequacy or traceability of a test or measurement. Having a NIST number does not provide evidence that the measurement value provided by another organization has the property of metrological traceability."

TMI will report the calibration asset number for each standard and invites any customer to visit and check our methods of maintaining traceability in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025.

¹NCSL Position Statement 96-1, dated 07 May 1996

²NIST GMP 13 Good Measurement Practice for Ensuring Metrological Traceability, dated GMP 13 – 2018