SBE

Sea-Bird Electronics, Inc.
1808 136th Place NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
USA

Phone: (425) 643-9866
Fax: (425) 643-9954
E-mail: seabird@seabird.com
Web: www.seabird.com

APPLICATION NOTE NO. 2D

Revised March 2002

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARE AND CLEANING OF CONDUCTIVITY CELLS

Since any conductivity sensor's output reading is proportional to its dimensions, it is important to keep the cell clean of internal coatings. Also, cell electrodes contaminated with oil, biological growths, or other foreign material will cause low conductivity readings.

If the cell is allowed to dry out between usage, salt crystals may form on (and in) the platinized electrode surfaces When the instrument is next used, there will be a delay before these crystals are dissolved -- in the meantime, sensor accuracy may be affected. Therefore, we recommend that the cell be kept filled with distilled or de-ionized water between uses. A length of 7/16" ID Tygon tubing is provided for this purpose, to be connected in such a way that any air entrapped will be in the Tygon tube rather than in the cell.

An additional important benefit of keeping the cell ends closed with Tygon is to keep air-borne contaminants (of which there are an abundance on most research vessels) from entering the cell.

If it is not practical to keep the cell filled with distilled (or de-ionized) water between use (for example, in Arctic environments where freezing is a hazard), flush the cell with clean fresh water (preferably distilled or de-ionized) and close the cell with Tygon. Also, remember to keep the Tygon in a clean place (so that it does not pick up contaminants) while the instrument is in use.

Experience indicates that in normal intermittent use (such as in CTD profiling operations), drift rates of 0.0003 S/m (0.003 mmho/cm) or less per month can be expected **without any cleaning** if the procedures described above are followed.

PRECAUTIONS!!!!!!

The conductivity cell is primarily made of glass, and therefore is subject to breakage if mishandled. It is especially important to use the right size Tygon tubing, since if you use tubing with a too small ID, it will be difficult to remove the tubing, and the cell end may be broken if excessive force is used. **The correct size tubing for all instruments produced since 1980 is 7/16" ID, 9/16" OD, 1/16" wall**. Instruments shipped prior to 1980 had smaller retaining ridges at the ends of the cell, and 3/8" ID Tygon is the right size for these older instruments. It is better to use Tygon (brand) than other plastic tubing, since it tends to remain flexible over a wide temperature range and with age.

Do not insert any sort of cleaning probe (e.g. Q-tip) into the interior of the cell. If the platinized (black) electrode surface is touched, it may be damaged and require the electrodes to be replatinized.

If a cell is filled with water, do not subject it to low temperatures that will freeze the water and break the cell. **Remove the water before shipment during the winter, or to Arctic regions at any season.** No adverse affects have been observed as a result of temporary "dry" storage, particularly if the cell is rinsed with fresh water before storage.

If anti-foulant devices are installed on your cell (i.e., on moored instruments, usually not profiling CTDs), unnecessary handling of anti-foul devices or treated surfaces should be avoided, and your hands thoroughly washed after contact. The anti-foulant is toxic to marine organisms and can be absorbed through the skin. Wear chemical-resistant gloves when handling anti-foulants.

SBE

Sea-Bird Electronics, Inc.
1808 136th Place NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
USA

Phone: (425) 643-9866
Fax: (425) 643-9954
E-mail: seabird@seabird.com
Web: www.seabird.com

APPLICATION NOTE NO. 10

Revised April 2002

COMPRESSIBILITY COMPENSATION OF SEA-BIRD CONDUCTIVITY SENSORS

Sea-Bird conductivity sensors provide precise characterization of deep ocean water masses. To achieve the accuracy of which the sensors are capable, an accounting for the effect of hydrostatic loading (pressure) on the conductivity cell is necessary. Conductivity calibration certificates show an equation containing the appropriate pressure-dependent correction term, which has been derived from mechanical principles and confirmed by field observations. The form of the equation varies somewhat, as shown below:

SBE 4, 9, 9*plus*, 16, 19, 21, 25, and 26

$$\text{Conductivity (Siemens/meter)} = \text{slope}\ \frac{(g + hf^2 + if^3 + jf^4)/10}{1 + [\text{CTcor}]\,t + [\text{CPcor}]\,p} + \text{offset} \qquad \textbf{(recommended)}$$

or

$$\text{Conductivity (Siemens/meter)} = \text{slope}\ \frac{(af^m + bf^2 + c + dt)/10}{1 + [\text{CPcor}]\,p} + \text{offset}$$

SBE 16*plus*, 19*plus*, 37, 45, and 49

$$\text{Conductivity (Siemens/meter)} = \text{slope}\ \frac{g + hf^2 + if^3 + jf^4}{1 + [\text{CTcor}]\,t + [\text{CPcor}]\,p} + \text{offset}$$

where

- a, b, c, d, m, and CPcor are the calibration coefficients used for older sensors (prior to January 1995); Sea-Bird continues to calculate and print these coefficients on the calibration sheets for use with old software, but recommends use of the g, h, I, j, CTcor, CPcor form of the equation for most accurate results
- g, h, I, j, CTcor, and CPcor are the calibration coefficients used for newer sensors
- **CPcor is the correction term for pressure effects on conductivity**
- slope and offset are correction coefficients used to make corrections for sensor drift between calibrations; set to 1.0 and 0 respectively on initial calibration by Sea-Bird (see Application Note 31 for details on calculating slope and offset)
- f is the instrument frequency (kHz)
- t is the water temperature (°C)
- p is the water pressure (decibars)

Sea-Bird CTD data acquisition, display, and post-processing software *SEASOFT* automatically implements these equations.

Sea-Bird Electronics, Inc.
1808 136th Place NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
USA

Phone: (425) 643-9866
Fax: (425) 643-9954
E-mail: seabird@seabird.com
Web: www.seabird.com

APPLICATION NOTE NO. 14

January 1989

1978 PRACTICAL SALINITY SCALE

Should you not be already familiar with it, we would like to call your attention to the January 1980 issue of the IEEE Journal of Oceanic Engineering, which is dedicated to presenting the results of a multi-national effort to obtain a uniform repeatable Practical Salinity Scale, based upon electrical conductivity measurements. This work has been almost universally accepted by researchers, and all instruments delivered by Sea-Bird since February 1982 have been supplied with calibration data based upon the new standard.

The value for conductivity at 35 ppt, 15 degrees C, and 0 pressure [C(35,15,0)] was not agreed upon in the IEEE reports -- Culkin & Smith used 42.914 mmho/cm (p 23), while Poisson used 42.933 mmho/cm (p 47). It really does not matter which value is used, provided that the same value is used during data reduction that was used to compute instrument calibration coefficients. Our instrument coefficients are computed using C(35,15,0) = 42.914 mmho/cm.

The PSS 1978 equations and constants for computing salinity from *in-situ* measurements of conductivity, temperature, and pressure are given in the 'Conclusions' section of the IEEE journal (p 14) and are reproduced back of this note. In the first equation, 'R' is obtained by dividing the conductivity value measured by your instrument by C(35,15,0), or 42.914 mmho/cm. Note that the PSS equations are based upon conductivity in units of mmho/cm, which are equal in magnitude to units of mS/cm. **If you are working in conductivity units of Siemens/meter (S/m), multiply your conductivity values by 10 before using the PSS 1978 equations**.

Also note that the equations assume pressure relative to the sea-surface. Absolute pressure gauges (as used in all Sea-Bird CTD instruments) have a vacuum on the reference side of their sensing diaphragms and indicate atmospheric pressure (nominally 10.1325 dBar) at the sea-surface. This reading must be subtracted to obtain pressure as required by the PSS equations. The pressure reading displayed when using Sea-Bird's SEASOFT CTD acquisition, display, and post-processing software is the corrected sea-surface pressure and is used by SEASOFT to compute salinity, density, etc in accordance with the PSS equations.

SBE SEA-BIRD ELECTRONICS, INC.
1808 - 136th Place Northeast, Bellevue, Washington 98005 USA
Phone: (425) 643-9866 Fax: (425) 643-9954 www.seabird.com

APPLICATION NOTE NO. 42 **Revised September 2001**

ITS-90 TEMPERATURE SCALE

Beginning January 1995, Sea-Bird temperature calibration certificates list a new set of coefficients labeled *g*, *h*, *i*, *j*, and *F0* These coefficients correspond to ITS90 (T90) temperatures and should be entered by those researchers working with SEASOFT-DOS Versions 4.208 and higher (and all versions of SEASOFT-Win32). For the convenience of users who prefer to use older SEASOFT versions, the new certificates also list *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, and *F0* coefficients corresponding to IPTS68 (T68) temperatures as required by SEASOFT-DOS versions older than 4.208.

It is important to note that the international oceanographic research community will continue to use T68 for computation of salinity and other seawater properties. Therefore, following the recommendations of Saunders (1990) and as supported by the Joint Panel on Oceanographic Tables and Standards (1991), SEASOFT-DOS 4.200 and later and all versions of SEASOFT-Win32 convert between T68 and T90 according to the linear relationship:

$$T_{68} = 1.00024 * T_{90}$$

The use of T68 for salinity and other seawater calculations is automatic in all SEASOFT programs. However, when selecting **temperature** as a display/output variable, you will be prompted to specify which standard (T90 or T68) is to be used to compute temperature. SEASOFT recognizes whether you have entered T90 or T68 coefficients in the configuration (.con) file, and computes T90 temperature directly or calculates it from the Saunders linear approximation, depending on which coefficients were used and which display variable type is selected.

For example, if *g, h, i, j, F0* coefficients (T90) are entered in the .con file and you select temperature variable type as T68, SEASOFT computes T90 temperature directly and multiplies it by 1.00024 to display T68. Conversely, if *a, b, c, d,* and *F0* coefficients (T68) are entered in the .con file and you select temperature variable type as T90, SEASOFT computes T68 directly and divides by 1.00024 to display T90.

Note: The CTD configuration (.con) file is edited using the Configure menu (in SEASAVE or SBE Data Processing in our SEASOFT-Win32 suite of programs) or SEACON (in SEASOFT-DOS)

Also beginning January 1995, Sea-Bird's own temperature metrology laboratory (based upon water triple-point and gallium melt cell, SPRT, and ASL F18 Temperature Bridge) converted to T90. These T90 standards are now employed in calibrating *all* Sea-Bird temperature sensors, and as the reference temperature used in conductivity calibrations. Accordingly, all calibration certificates show T90 (g, h, i, j) coefficients that result directly from T90 standards, and T68 coefficients (a, b, c, d) computed using the Saunders linear approximation.