# Transducer Cleaning Schedule

If no historic data exists on which to base a maintenance schedule then a baseline must be established. After an evaluation of the conditions at each site has occurred a preliminary schedule can be developed. This schedule should be re-evaluated periodically to ensure that it is still valid. The following steps can be used to begin the initial evaluation.

Visit each site and determine the physical and electrical condition of each transducer. Document that information for future analysis. Among the conditions that should be noted are:

1. The appearance of:
   a. The cabling
      -- damaged or fouled
   b. The transducer housing
      -- fouled and extent and type of that fouling

2. The performance of the transducer
   a. Lift the unit from the liquid and note the output on its indicator or using a handheld DVM.
   b. Return the unit to its installed position and note the output and its accuracy (i.e. measure the fluid level and compare it to the output of the transducer note any deviation and its magnitude)

3. Any other parameter that may be appropriate such as the excitation voltage and an indication that the units performance is:
   a. acceptable
   b. marginal
   c. unacceptable

   * Be sure that the inspector notes why the device falls into the evaluation category.

Visiting each site on a regular basis for the purpose of this examination will provide trend information on which a more appropriate schedule can be based. The initial evaluation interval should be frequent until sufficient data has been accumulated. Although it may be onerous, an examination interval of 1 month or less for a period of 6 months would be a good starting point. After this initial evaluation has occurred the data should be analyzed to determine:

1. The rate of fouling
2. The rate of change in performance of the measurement parameters in the log sheets.
3. Any degradation in performance indicated by the technician.

   * Degraded performance can point to the cause of failure allowing the user to be proactive and avoid system downtime.

At this point a regular cleaning cycle can be scheduled based on the observed rate of fouling and problematic sites can be targeted for remedial action. The evaluation procedures should be maintained although their period can be extended or reduced to maintain an accurate picture of the system as a whole.

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