

## EQP: Verification of Laboratory Rulers and Tape Measures

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**Introduction** Laboratory rulers and tape measures that are used for measurements during the examination of evidence are checked against a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) traceable ruler to ensure its accuracy.

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**Acceptability** Laboratory rulers and tape measures must be accurate to plus or minus ( $\pm$ ) the smallest unit of measure on the ruler or tape when compared to the NIST traceable ruler.

Rulers or tape measures that are not accurate to plus or minus ( $\pm$ ) the smallest unit of measure are discarded.

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**Records**  
[5.5.8](#) Each ruler or tape measure that has been verified against the NIST traceable ruler is given a consecutive number and recorded into a logbook. The logbook is maintained in the Trace Evidence Laboratory.

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**Rulers not calibrated** The paper rulers used for photographic identification purposes are not intended to be an accurate measuring tool and are not verified against the NIST traceable ruler. These rulers are for estimating size only.

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**Calibrated rulers** The plastic rulers used in photographs are verified against the NIST traceable ruler.

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