

TESCO METERING

Ratio, Burden and Admittance Testing

TESCO's Meter School
TESCOOL
July 20-23, 2025

*July 23, 2025
10:30 AM – 12:00PM
Rob Reese*

What we will not cover!

- The Very Basics: meter forms and
- self-contained vs. transformer rated

What we will cover

- CT Functionality Basics
- The Faceplate:
 - Terminology and Specifications
- Ratio Testing
- Burden Testing
- Admittance Testing
- Demag Functions
- Roundtable – after Complete Site Testing is finished:
 - What you do and why?



What is a CT? a PT?

“A **current transformer (CT)** is used for measurement of alternating electric currents. Current transformers, together with voltage (or potential) transformers (VT or PT), are known as **instrument transformers**. When current in a circuit is too high to apply directly to measuring instruments, a current transformer produces a reduced current accurately proportional to the current in the circuit, which can be conveniently connected to measuring and recording instruments. A current transformer isolates the measuring instruments from what may be very high voltage in the monitored circuit. Current transformers are commonly used in metering and [protective relays](#) in the [electrical power industry](#).”
- Wikipedia



- Accuracy Testing
- Ratio and accuracy testing
- Polarity checking
- Accuracy class determination

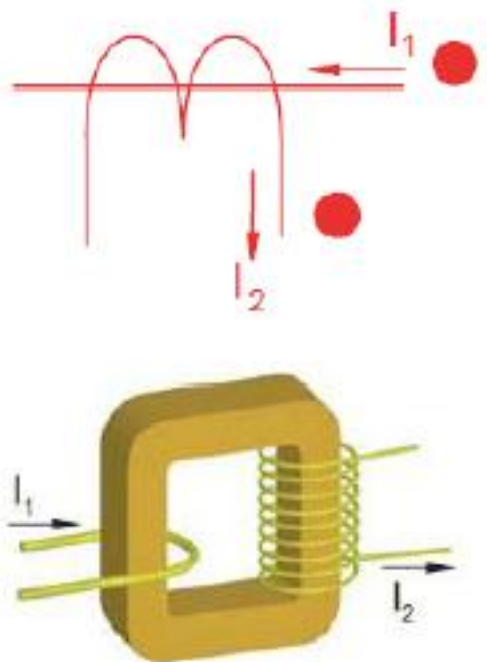


- 100% of all Transformers
 - If not possible then sample testing of all and 100% of all those over a certain size for CT's and all VT's (generally not a large volume)
- Transformer testing should include
 - Ratio and accuracy testing
 - Polarity checking
 - Accuracy class determination
- 100% of all transformer rated meters
 - If not possible then sample testing of all transformer rated meters and 100% of all those going into a certain size service and over
- Meter testing should include
 - Software & Firmware Verification
 - Setting Verification
 - Functional Testing
 - Disconnect/Reconnect Functionality and as left setting



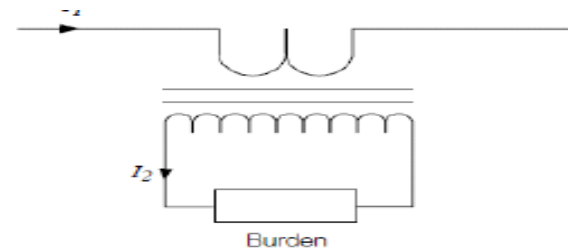
Current Transformers Conceptual Representation

As current is applied in the primary, it produces a magnetic flux in the core. This flux flows through the core and induces a current in the secondary windings and circuit that is proportional to the number of turns.

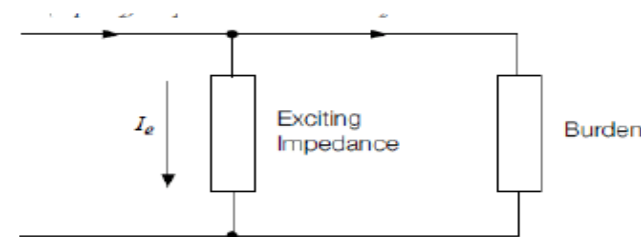


$$I_1 \times N_1 = I_2 \times N_2$$

Ideal. No losses

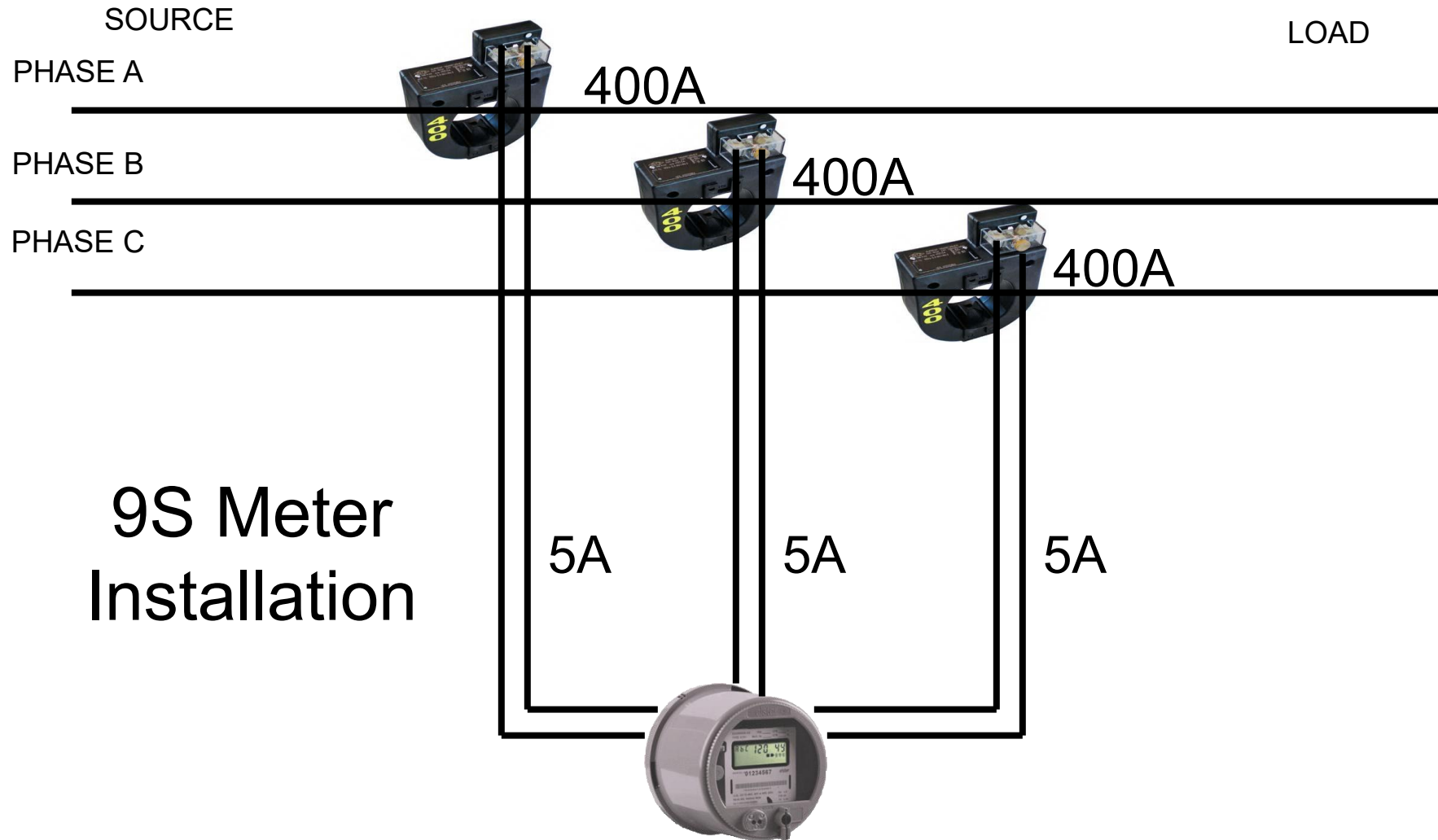


$$I_2 = \frac{N_1}{N_2} \times I_1$$



$$I_2 = \frac{N_1}{N_2} \times I_1 - I_e$$

Real, with core losses

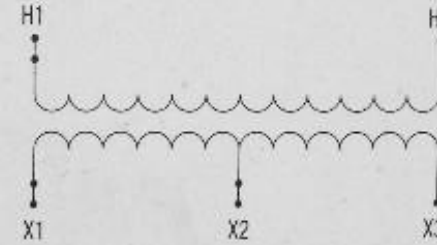


ALSTOM

OUTDOOR CURRENT TRANSFORMER **115** kV

TYPE: OIL FILLED	SECONDARY CONNECTION	RATIO
HZ = 60	X1 - X3	300 : 5A
BIL: 550 kV	X2 - X3	150 : 5A
PRIMARY: 150/300 AMPS		
SECONDARY: 5 AMPS		
RATIO: 30/60 :1		
RATING FACTOR: 1.5		
ACCURACY: 0.3% B0.1 TO B1.8		
SERIAL NO. 1FD-0256		
MFG. DATE: 4/00		
CATALOG NO.: CTH3-115-0300		
CUSTOMER P.O. # F000579-00		
		F.O. # F3657

300 WEST ANTELOPE ROAD, MEDFORD OREGON 97503-1089 USA



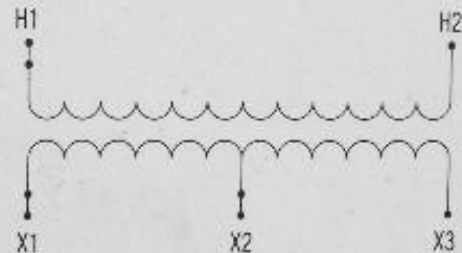
ALSTOM

OUTDOOR CURRENT TRANSFORMER **115** kV

TYPE: OIL FILLED
HZ = 60
BIL: **550** kV
PRIMARY: **150/300** AMPS
SECONDARY: **5** AMPS
RATIO: **30/60** :1
RATING FACTOR: **1.5**
ACCURACY: **0.3% B0.1 TO B1.8**
SERIAL NO. **IFD-0256** MFG. DATE: **4/00**
CATALOG NO.: **CTH3-115-0300**
CUSTOMER P.O. # **F000579-00** F.O. # **F3657**

SECONDARY CONNECTION

	RATIO
X1 - X3	300 : 5A
X2 - X3	150 : 5A



300 WEST ANTELOPE ROAD, MEDFORD OREGON 97503-1089 USA

Ratio



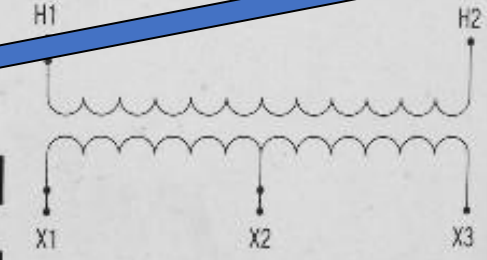
For instance, a CT with a 400:5 ratio will produce 5A on the secondary, when 400A are applied to the primary.

ALSTOM

OUTDOOR CURRENT TRANSFORMER **15** kV

TYPE: OIL FILLED	SECONDARY CONNECTION	RATIO
HZ = 60	X1 - X3	300 : 5A
BIL: 550 kV	X2 - X3	150 : 5A
PRIMARY: 150/300 AMPS		
SECONDARY: 5 AMPS		
RATIO: 30/60 :1		
RATING FACTOR: 1.5		
ACCURACY: 0.3% BIL TO BIL		
SERIAL NO. IFD-0256	MFG. DATE: 4/00	
CATALOG NO.: CTH43-115-0300		
CUSTOMER P.O. # P000579-00		
F.O. # F3657		

300 WEST ANTELOPE ROAD, MEDFORD OREGON 97503-1089 USA



Thermal
factor

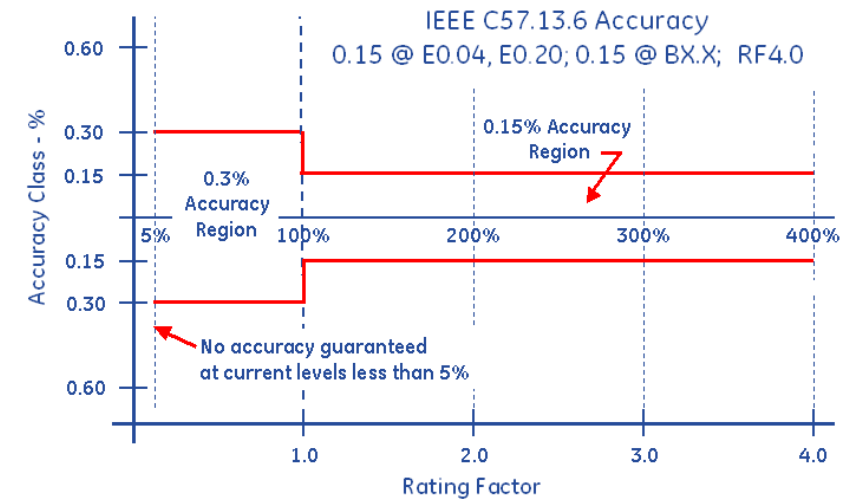
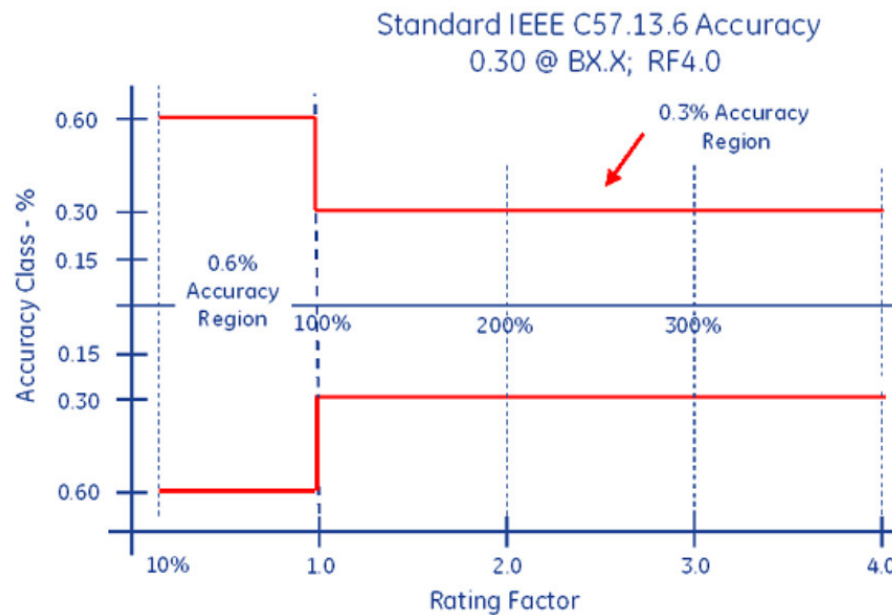
Thermal Rating factor

A value representing the amount by which the primary current can be increased without exceeding the allowable temperature rise. For instance, a RF of 4.0 at 30° ambient on a 400:5 ratio CT would allow for a primary current up to 1600A.



Accuracy Classifications

All CT's fall within an accuracy class.
IEEE Standards have defined accuracy classes.



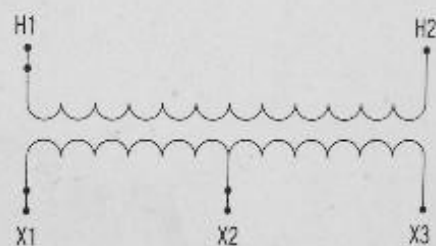
Burden
Rating

ALSTOM

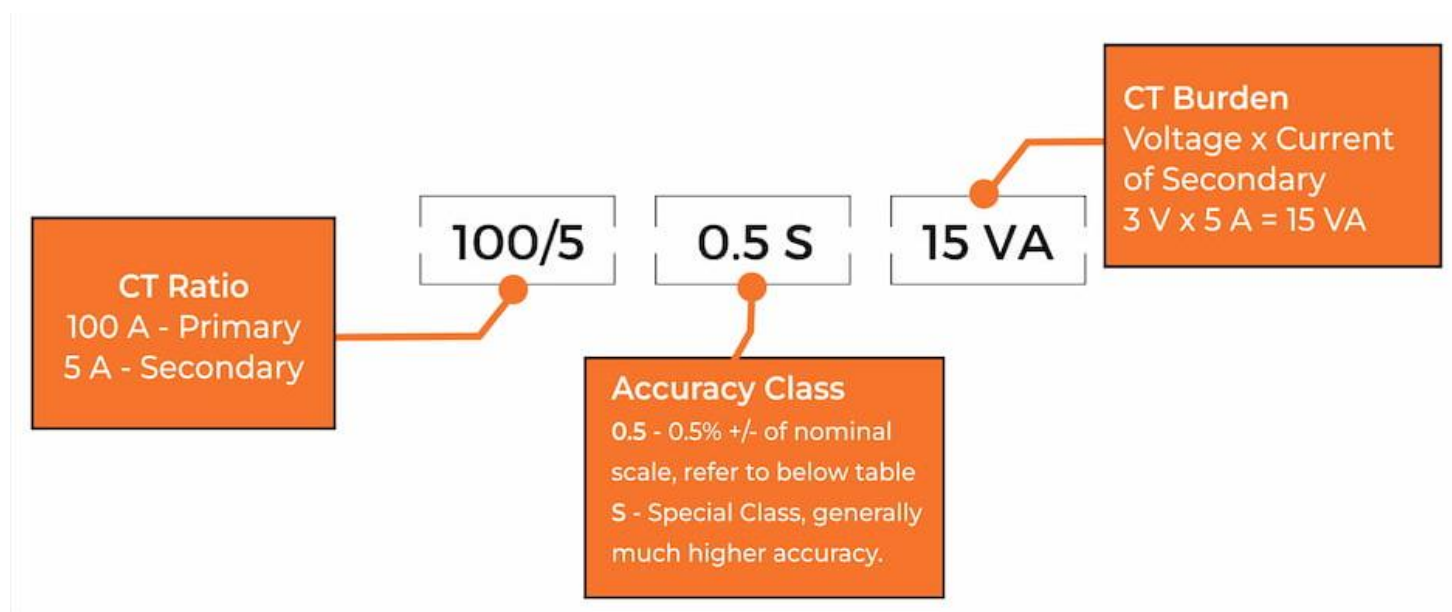
OUTDOOR CURRENT TRANSFORMER **15** kV

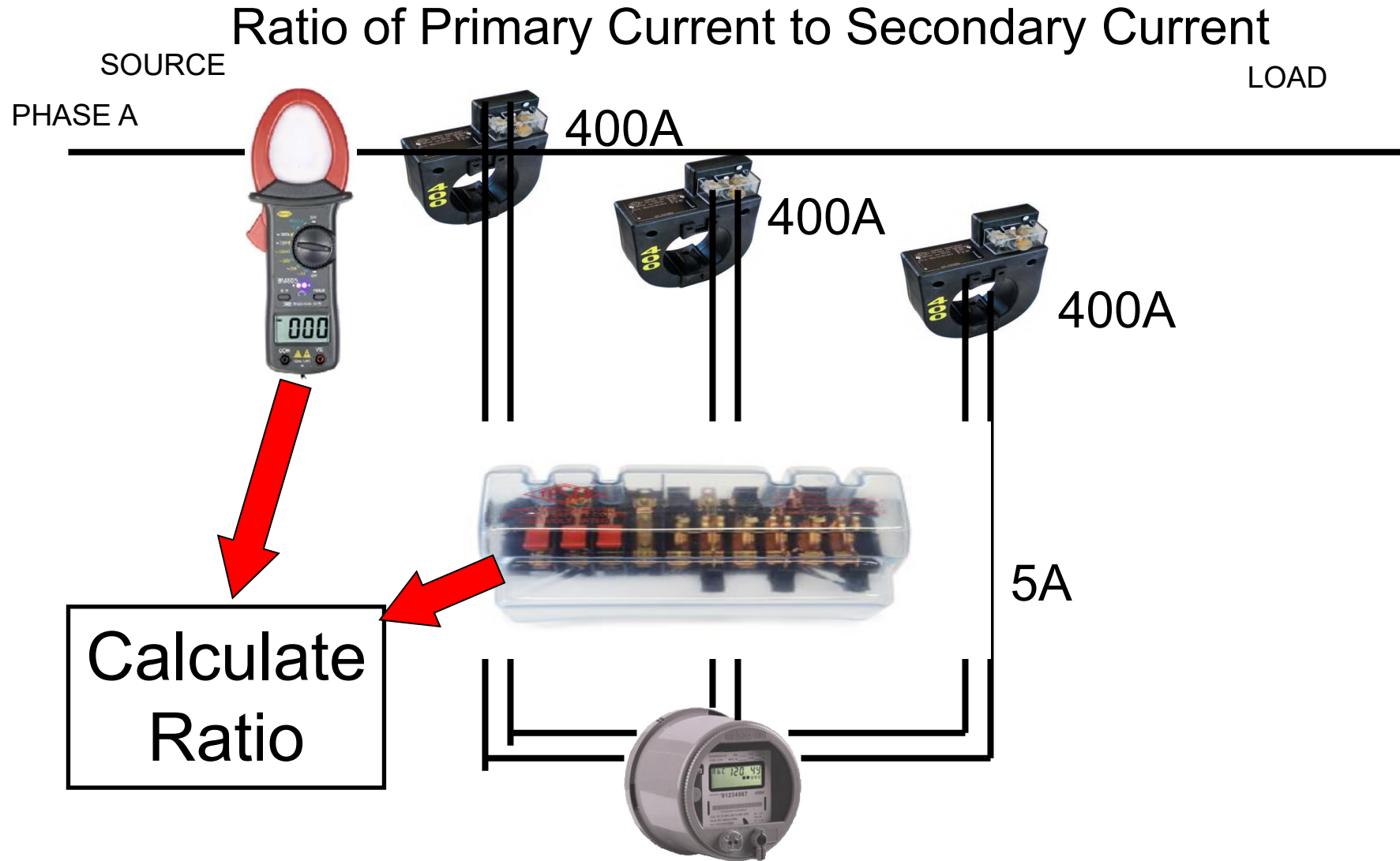
TYPE: OIL FILLED	SECONDARY CONNECTION	RATIO
HZ = 60	X1 - X3	300 : 5A
BIL: 550 kV	X2 - X3	150 : 5A
PRIMARY: 150/300 AMPS		
SECONDARY: 5 AMPS		
RATIO: 30/60 :1		
RATING FACTOR: 1.5		
ACCURACY: 0.3% B0.1 TO 1.8		
SERIAL NO. IFD-0256 MFG. DATE: 4/00		
CATALOG NO.: CTH3-115-0300		
CUSTOMER P.O. # F000579-00		F.O. # F3657

300 WEST ANTELOPE ROAD, MEDFORD OREGON 97503-1089 USA

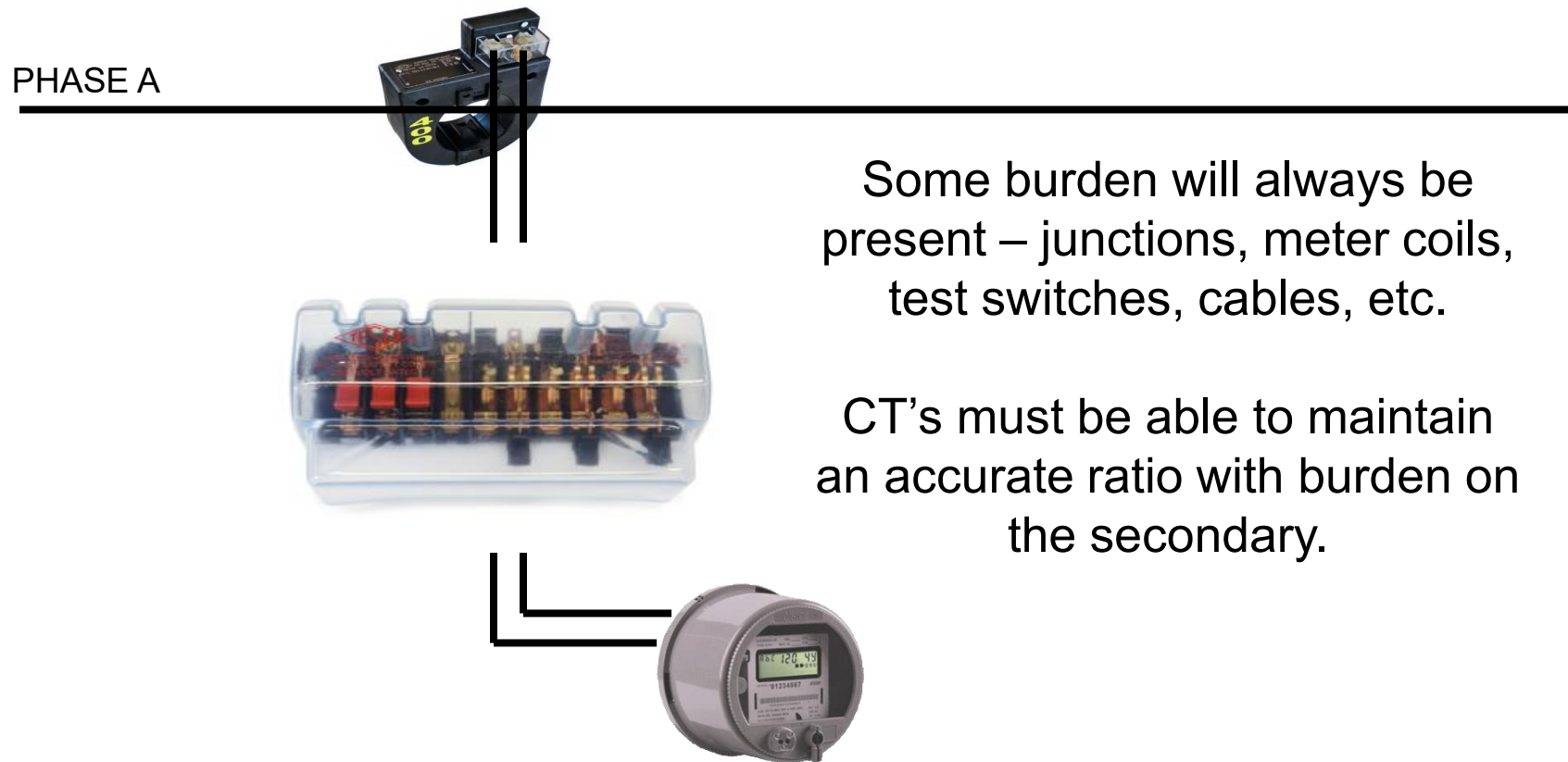


The burden range, present in the secondary circuit, that the manufacturer will guarantee their CT's will still accurately function, in regards to the ratio specification.

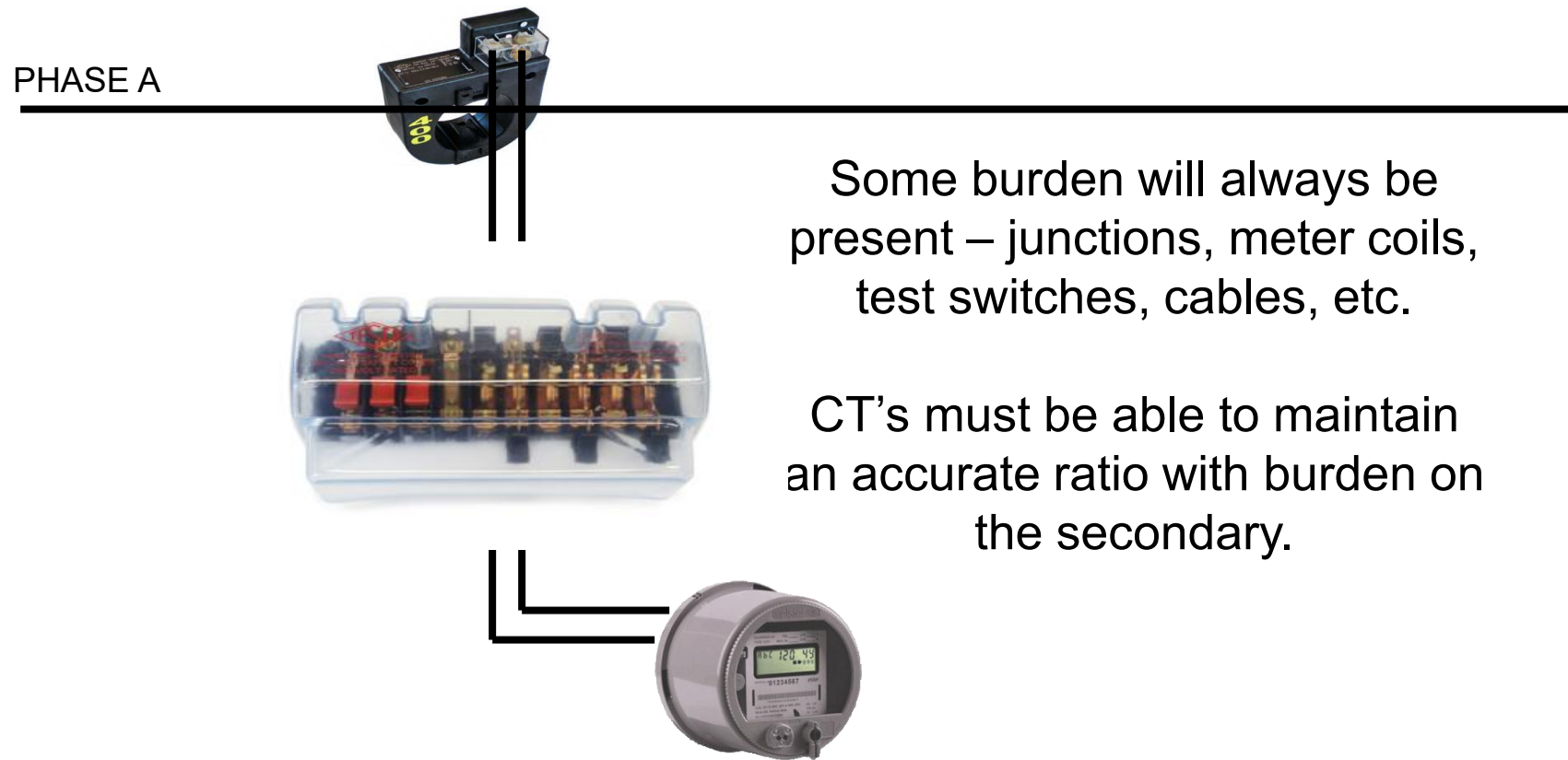




Functionality with Burden Present on the Secondary Loop



Functionality with Burden Present on the Secondary Loop

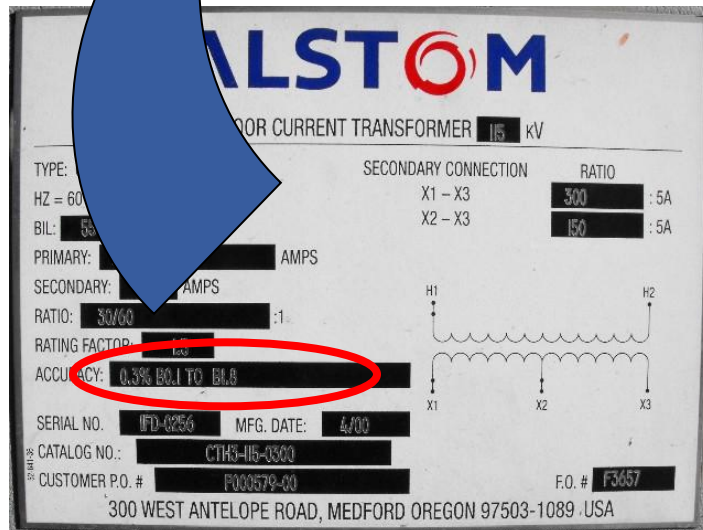


Functionality with Burden Present on the Secondary Loop

Example Burden Spec:
0.3% @ B0.1, B0.2, B0.5

or

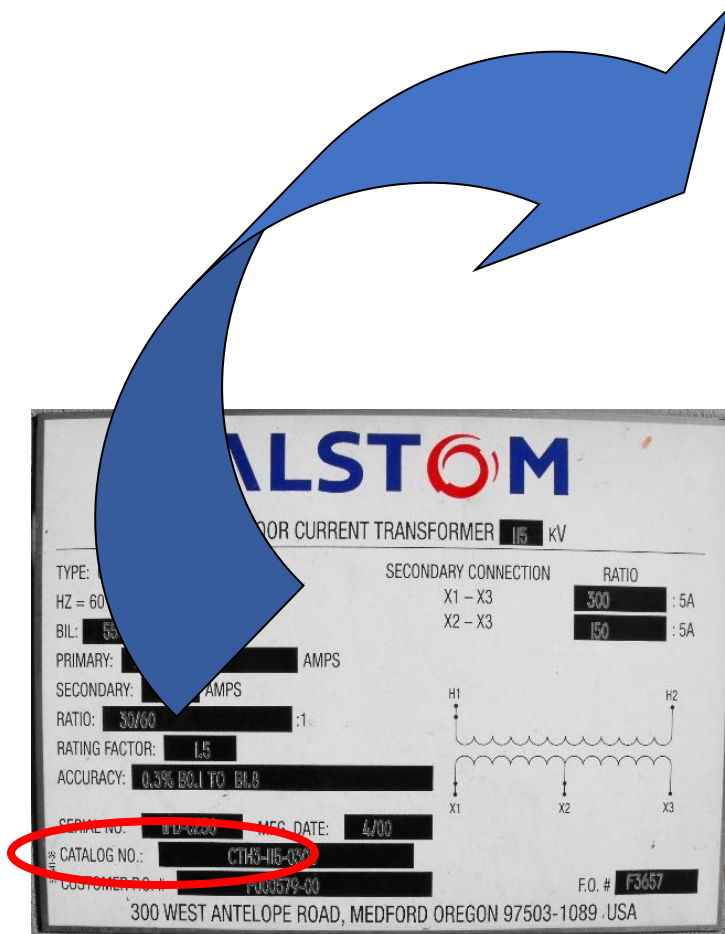
There should be less than the 0.3% change in secondary current from initial ("0" burden) reading, when up to 0.5Ohms of burden is applied



Functionality with Burden Present on the Secondary Loop

ANSI Burden Values

0.1 Ohms
0.2 Ohms
0.5 Ohms
1 Ohms
2 Ohms
4 Ohms
8 Ohms

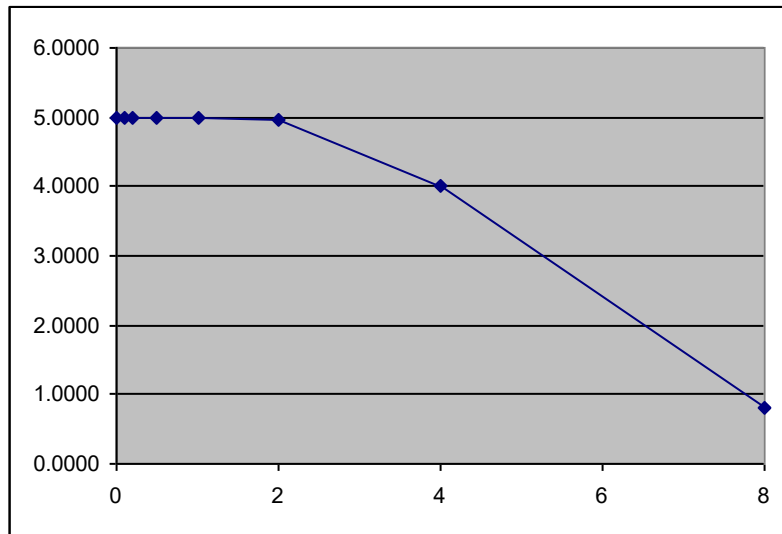


0.3% @ B0.1, B0.2, B0.5

Initial Reading = 5Amps

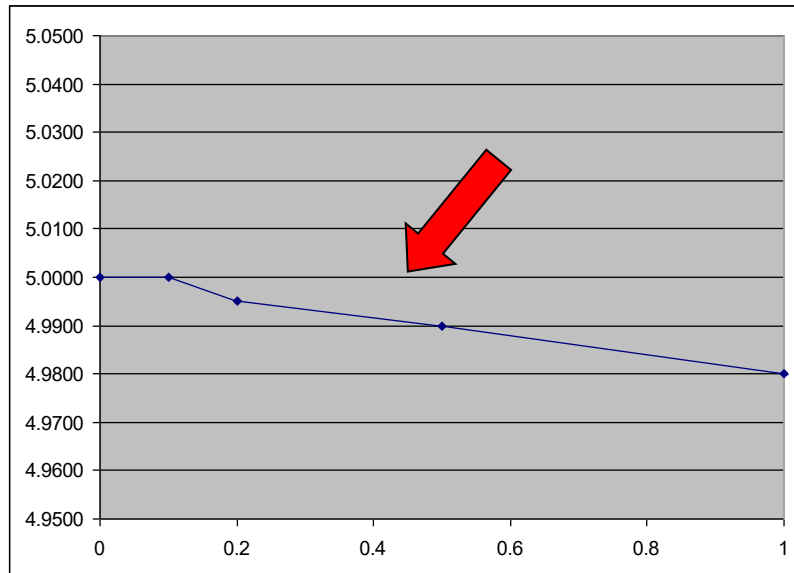
$0.3\% \times 5A = 0.015A$

$5A - 0.015 = 4.985A$



Burden	Reading
0	5.0000
0.1	4.9999
0.2	4.9950
0.5	4.9900
1	4.9800
2	4.9500
4	4.0000
8	0.8000

0.3% @ B0.1, B0.2, B0.5



At 0.5 Ohms of Burden
the secondary current is still at
4.990A – Less than 0.3% change –
Good CT!

Initial Reading = 5Amps

$0.3\% \times 5A = 0.015A$

$5A - 0.015 = 4.985A$

Burden	Reading
0	5.0000
0.1	4.9999
0.2	4.9950
0.5	4.9900
1	4.9800
2	4.9500
4	4.0000
8	0.8000

- What is Admittance?
- Admittance testing measures the overall “health” of the secondary loop of the CT.
- Measured in units of MiliSiemens (mS)
- Admittance is the inverse of impedance.
- Impedance is the opposition to current.
- Therefore, admittance testing measures the overall “health” of the secondary loop of the CT.



- Admittance testing devices inject an audio sine wave signal into the secondary loop of the CT.
- The resulting current is measured.
- The voltage of the initial signal is known.
- From these two parameters, the impedance, and thus the admittance can be calculated.



- Admittance test results are not immediately intuitive.
- Some analysis and interpretation is need.
- What do all these mS values mean?



Three phase process is recommended.

1. Test each CT individually
2. Test the matched sets
3. Test over time



CT's can become magnetized, due to a number of reasons, including leaving the shorting clip open, near lightning strikes, and harmonic content.

CT's can be demagnetized by slowly and smoothly increasing the secondary resistance until saturation occurs, and then slowly and smoothly decreasing the secondary resistance.

A resistance that will cause a secondary current reduction of 65% to 75% will typically put the CT into saturation.

*Some information has been taken from Radian Research's Application Note 1109A:
Admittance Testing Verifies CT Testing Integrity



Please Take a Few
Minutes To Provide
Feedback About The
Course & Instructor

Track 2 - Ratio Burden and
Admittance Testing 72325
10:30AM Rob Reese



Rob Reese

rob.reese@tescometering.com

TESCO Metering *Bristol, PA*

215.228.0500



This presentation can also be found under Meter Conferences and Schools on the
TESCO website: tescometering.com

ISO 9001:2015 Certified Quality Company
ISO 17025:2017 Accredited Laboratory