DICKSON

insights

Fall 2014 • CD281

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Pharma Expo:

November 2-5, 2014
McCormick Place, Chicago, IL

To all of our pharmaceutical customers out there, **Dickson** will be exhibiting at Pharma Expo in Chicago this November! November 2-5 to be exact. If you are going, we'd love it if you stopped by our booth (#553) to say hello. If you aren't going but would like to go, we can help you out. Dickson has a select number of "attendee passes" for most trade shows, and we would be overjoyed to give them to you, our amazing customers. If you're interested in a complimentary pass, email a request to **content@dicksondata.com**, and we will send one your way. Chicago in November can be a bit chilly, but you can count on a warm welcome from us.

Trade shows afford Dickson the opportunity to connect face-to-face with customers we've only talked with on the phone or maybe not even at all. We will be exhibiting some new products at this show, and look forward to talking with you about all of the solutions we can offer to meet your monitoring needs. See you there!

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Pharmaceutical Compliance:
What The Top Companies Know

While we won't make the direct connection that the most successful pharmaceutical companies can attribute their success directly from strictly adhering to regulations, in our experience, the big guns in the industry know auditors, regulations, and compliance like the back of their hand. But what do they know about their facilities as those facilities relate to regulatory organizations? Nothing that you don't. There aren't any secret passwords or hidden lists on pharmaceutical safety. Instead, the big guns do the important things really, really well. Here are those important things they know so much about:

1. They adhere to stricter storage requirements.
A weird one to start off with, sure. However, it's a minor change that can have such a great impact, we'd be disappointed if you weren't running to change your storage requirement documentation right now. Adhering to "tighter-than-what-the-auditor-says" storage conditions will only benefit you. Alarms will go off sooner, helping you save money on lost product. Also, it looks really good in the auditor's eyes if you go the extra mile.

2. They are in constant contact with their auditors.
And we mean CONSTANT. We'd be surprised if each of the top ten 10 pharma companies didn't have a robust internal auditing team and multiple FDA contacts who were showing up at their door to check over things on an incredibly frequent basis. For example, when testing or manufacturing a new product, pharma companies have to go through months and many times years of audits, third party and FDA testing, marketing guidelines, and distribution practices validation. No matter which stage of the process you are in, you get visited by regulatory agencies. So, establish open communication with both your internal auditing team and your external auditors. You need to stay informed to ensure your products are safe and your business is successful.

3. Every part of their testing, manufacturing, storage, and distribution process is validated and documented.
That's right, every part. If you can prove why you do something, how you do it, and what the effects of doing it are, you are golden in the pharmaceutical world. The top dogs in the pharma industry don't institute a new practice or product without qualifying it, verifying it, and validating it. Also, they understand how one change in manufacturing could have a ripple effect on some standard in storage.

4. They adapt to regulation changes quickly and completely.
Just because regulations seem to take forever to change, doesn't mean your company has to take forever to change with them. The disadvantages that come with waiting until the last day to update your processes to comply with recently changed regulations significantly outweigh the advantages (we couldn't even think of any). The largest pharma companies institute changes, at the latest, immediately after regulations are changed. They have a leg up on the competition by keeping up-to-date on the possible regulation shifts that will affect their facilities and impact their business processes.

CHECK OUT THE
DICKSON BLOG!

Like what you've read? Find more great information about temperature on our blog: **Blog.DicksonData.com**

Cover Story:

How The Wrong Temps Are Killing Your Business

It may seem silly stating that temperatures are killing your business. "Temperatures don't kill business. Bad management, terrible location, and market changes kill business, but not temperature . . . right?"

Wrong. Poorly monitored temperatures can kill businesses, and not just for one particular industry. Whether you are distributing vaccines in a hospital, manufacturing steel, or working as a consultant to a law firm, your company may be at a serious disadvantage if temperature is ignored or not monitored closely. How? Find out below. We think you'll realize just how important monitoring and controlling the temperatures of your business are.

Reason #1: Product loss You can't sell it if it's spoiled, ruined, or has disappeared. Losing products because they weren't manufactured, tested, stored, or distributed at the correct temperature is an incredibly frustrating form of waste. Wasted product = money down the drain. It's been said that a data logger is your best insurance policy. As a data logger manufacturer, we obviously couldn't agree more. But we'd like to take it a step further: most companies can't easily handle a power outage, or incur the financial blow of an open bay door that will result in hundreds, to hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue in spoiled product. So a data logger, or a temperature control system, is not only your best insurance policy, but it may save your business. The cold chain is a term that is here to stay. Don't be the broken link.

Reason #2: Decreased efficiency Product loss is a pretty easy fix. Decreased efficiency? A bit tougher. All companies seek to maximize efficiency. Whether you work with concrete or spend the majority of your day in Gmail (temperature affects typing speed!) you should take a quick look at your HVAC settings, your oven settings, or your refrigerator settings, specifically to see if energy is being wasted because your environment is being kept at the wrong temperature.

Reason #3: Failed audits Mornings at Dickson begin with coffee and the news. We hop on the internet to find headlines like this: "Salmonella outbreak, Company X failed inspection twice." You don't want that to be you, correct? While Salmonella is specific to the food industry, many of our customers are required, by law, to monitor the temperature of their environment or product. What happens if you don't? Your product is less safe, auditors show up at your door, you fail the audit, you pay the fine, your name gets put in the news, your customers lose faith in your product, and yes . . . your business dies. Don't fail your audit. Instead, know, monitor, and control your temperatures.

Temperature and Temperature/Humidity

Data Logging Solutions

Data loggers are cost effective solutions for monitoring countless applications. With solutions for the food, pharma, manufacturing and dozens of other industries, Dickson's data loggers get you your data how you want it.

1

2

3

4

1 **SM300 $249** Temperature Logger. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C. Accuracy ±0.8°F, ±0.44°C.
SM320* $299 Temperature Logger. Remote Probe. Range with Probe -300 to 2000°F, -184 to 1093°C. Accuracy ±1.8°F, ±1.0°C.
SM325* $399 Temperature Logger. Two Remote Probes. Range with Probe -300 to 2000°F, -184 to 1093°C. Accuracy ±1.8°F, ±1.0°C.
SM420 $499 Temperature Logger. Remote Probe. Range with Probe -50 to 350°F, -45 to 176°C. Accuracy ±0.5°F, ±0.28°C.
TM320 $299 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C. Accuracy ±0.8°F.
TM325 $399 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Remote Probe. Range -40 to 185°F, -40 to 85°C. Accuracy ±0.8°F.

2 **SP125 $119** Temperature Logger. Accuracy ±1.2°F, ±0.67°C. Range -10 to 176°F, -23 to 80°C.
SP175 $229 Temperature Logger with Thermocouple Probe. Accuracy ±1.8°F, ±0.1°C. Range -300 to 2000°F, -30 to 50°C. A203 Probe required for +500°F.
TP125 $199 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Accuracy ±0.8°F, ±0.45°C. Range -10 to 176°F, -23 to 80°C.

3 **SP425 $159** Temperature Logger. Digital Display. Accuracy ±1.2°F, ±0.67°C. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C.
TP425 $249 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Digital Display. Accuracy ±0.8°F, ±0.45°C. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C.

4 **SK550 $699** Temperature. Pack of twelve. Accuracy ±1.8°F, ±1°C. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C.
TK550 $999 Temperature & Humidity. Pack of twelve. Accuracy ±1.8°F, ±1°C. Ranges -4 to +158°F, -20 to +70°C.

Software required and sold separately. For software and other accessories, visit Page 16, call **630.543.3747** or go to **www.DicksonData.com.**

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Channel: DicksonData

Search "Dickson"

Search "Dickson Data Loggers"

Connect With Us:

High Temperature Loggers for the Food Industry

High Temperature Process Logger

HT350 HACCP Compliant, K-Thermocouple Probe, USB Download, and a large temperature range. Our new Process Logger is perfect for your application. Temperature Range -40° to 257°F (-40° to 125°C).

D605 Probe sold separately. For more information on Dickson's Probes and Accessories, visit **Page 16.**

$549

Waterproof High Temperature Data Logger

HT300 Waterproof, High Temperature Data Logger. HACCP and FDA Compliant. USB Download. IP68 Rating. Temperature Range -40° to 257°F (-40° to 125°C).

$349

Quick and Convenient

Environmental Data

Report Logger

We decided to make the best compact data logger on the market, our **RL200.** With a new outer case, user selectable logging times, and redesigned PC interface, it's exactly what you need.

$59

Touchscreen Handheld Indicator

TC700/TH700 Instant temperature or temperature/humidity data. No-slip silicone cover. Battery powered.

$299

TOUCHSCREEN DATA LOGGERS

Full Control
At Your Fingertips.

No running back to your PC to view your data. Jumbo 4.9" x 6.4" touchscreens. Zoom and scroll with the touch of a finger. Audible/visual alarms. USB and FLASH card data download. Rechargeable Backup Battery. Optional Display Lock. Replaceable Sensor Compatible.

MODEL	REMOTE PROBE	PROBE TYPE	TEMPERATURE RANGES	ACCURACY	RELAYS	PRICE
TEMPERATURE/HUMIDITY						
FH625	Optional	Temp/RH PCS*	-40°F to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C		**$489**
FH635	Optional	Temp/RH PCS*	-40°F to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C	▪	**$529**
TEMPERATURE						
FT600	Optional	Temp PCS*	0 to 122°F (-17° to 50°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C		**$399**
FT620	1	KT/C	-300°F to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, ±1°C		**$449**
FT630	2	KT/C	-300°F to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, ±1°C	▪	**$499**
FT625	▪	Thermistor	-40°F to 300°F (-40° to 148°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C		**$449**
FT640	1	Thermistor/Glycol	-40°F to 158°F (-40° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, ±0.5°C		**$469**
FT645	2	Thermistor/Glycol	-40°F to 158°F (-40° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, ±0.5°C		**$489**
FT660	▪	RTD	-148°F to 350°F (-100° to 176°C)	±0.5°F, ±0.28°C		**$549**

*Pre-Calibrated Sensor

Dickson Replaceable Sensors

Calibration Made Easy

THE OLD WAY

1. Call or order a recalibration online.
2. Acquire a Return Authorization Code from a Dickson Representative.
3. Take unit and probe out of their environment.
4. Shut down production/storage area if necessary.
5. Install backup system.
6. Box unit up.
7. Ship it to Dickson.
8. Dickson recalibrates the unit and ships it back.
9. Receive the unit.
10. Reinstall system.

Total Down Time: 7-10 Days

THE NEW WAY

1. Call or order a Replaceable Sensor online.
2. Receive Replaceable Sensor.
3. Take old sensor off, put new sensor on.

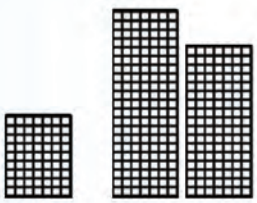
Total Down Time: 0 Days

MODEL	PROBE TYPE	TEMPERATURE RANGES	ACCURACY	PRICE
TEMPERATURE/HUMIDITY				
R200	Digital Sensor	-40° to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	**$69**
R250	Digital Straight Sensor	-40° to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	**$69**
TEMPERATURE				
R300	Digital Sensor	-22° to 122°F (-30° to 50°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	**$49**
R350	Digital Straight Sensor	-22° to 122°F (-30° to 50°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	**$49**
R400	K-Thermocouple	300° to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, -22 to 122°F (±1°C, -30 to -50°C)	**$49**
R500	Thermistor in Glycol Bottle	-58° to 158°F (-50° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, -58 to 68°F (±0.5°C, -50 to 20°C)	**$69**
R525	Stainless Steel Thermistor	-40° to 300°F (-40° to 149°C)	±0.8°F, -20 to 176°F (±0.44°C, -28 to 80°C)	**$69**
R600	Platinum RTD	-148° to 350°F (-100° to 176°C)	±0.5°F, -148 to 350°F (±0.3°C, -100 to 176°C)	**$199**
R700	Dual K-Thermocouple	300° to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, -22 to 122°F (±1°C, -30 to -50°C)	**$99**
R800	Dual Thermistor in Glycol Bottles	-58° to 158°F (-50° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, -58 to 68°F (±0.5°C, -50 to 20°C)	**$69**

DicksonOne

Temperature and Humidity Monitoring. Re-imagined.

DicksonOne is a wireless temperature and humidity monitoring system that automatically collects your data and delivers it to wherever you are. No more changing charts, no more downloading data.



MULTI-LOCATION How many points will you be monitoring? 1, 5, 100, 1000? From small cheese factories to multi-location healthcare distributors, DicksonOne is up for the task. Monitoring an additional location is as simple as buying another logger.

ALARMS When temperatures get too hot or cold, your power goes out, or your probe is unplugged, DicksonOne can call, text, or email you to alert you of the mishap. Throw away less products, and ensure the safety of your environment, even when you're not there.

INFINITE STORAGE We don't run out of space, and you never have to worry about hard drives or file folders. We've got you covered.

WHY DID WE MAKE IT?

DicksonOne is the direct result of customer feedback like this:

1. We want to monitor **multiple locations** with one system.
2. We're spending too many **personnel** hours changing charts and pens.
3. We want an **easier way** to share our data.
4. We need **more robust** alarming capabilities.
5. I need to view **my data** from anywhere.

DICKSONONE HARDWARE

DicksonOne Data Loggers are robust and reliable. With battery backup, your choice of Ethernet or Wi-Fi communication, and a digital display, these loggers provide the security and convenience your application needs.

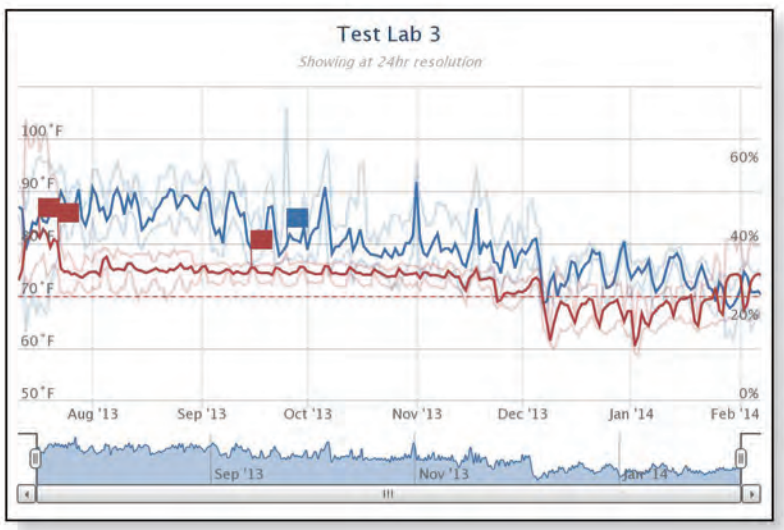
DICKSONONE SOFTWARE

DicksonOne is a SaaS (Software as a Service) platform that automatically stores your data and makes it accessible anywhere.

The software is the real key to DicksonOne. We believe it rises above the competition in usability, security, and scalability. The interface is easy to navigate for everybody, from your IT team to the end-user working with the product you're trying to keep safe. DicksonOne is 21CFR11 compliant, and all data is backed up redundantly, perfect for showing an audit trail. We've had a jump on all other environmental monitoring systems for over a year, and we've kept it that way. We continually improve the system and add new features based on customer feedback. Seriously, someone is working to make it better right now.

The list of features in DicksonOne is endless. Instead of listing them all, we invite you to see for yourself.

Start your free trial at **www.DicksonOne.com**



DICKSONONE REPORTING SUITE

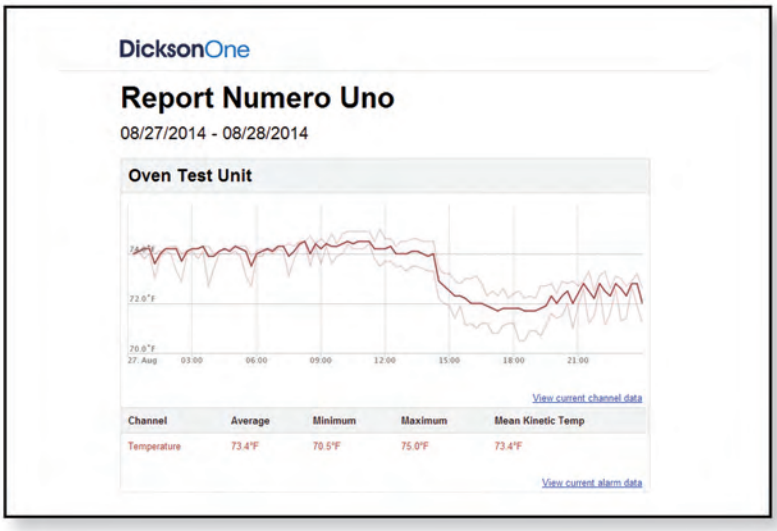
DicksonOne Reporting Suite is the latest edition to our wireless environmental monitoring system DicksonOne.

The Reporting Suite allows you to:

- Create and customize environmental reports
- Choose who in your organization will receive those reports
- Change and modify the frequency of reports

Our **DicksonOne** experts have built out a knowledge base catered directly to you. In our support pages you will find information on how to set up alarms, reports, change sample intervals, and much much more.

Visit **Support.DicksonOne.com** to take full advantage of the system and build out the features of environmental monitoring that are important to you.



Reports That Go **Great** With Your Morning Cup Of Coffee

DICKSONONE.COM

INFO, TIPS AND MUCH MORE

DicksonOne
Hardware Pricing

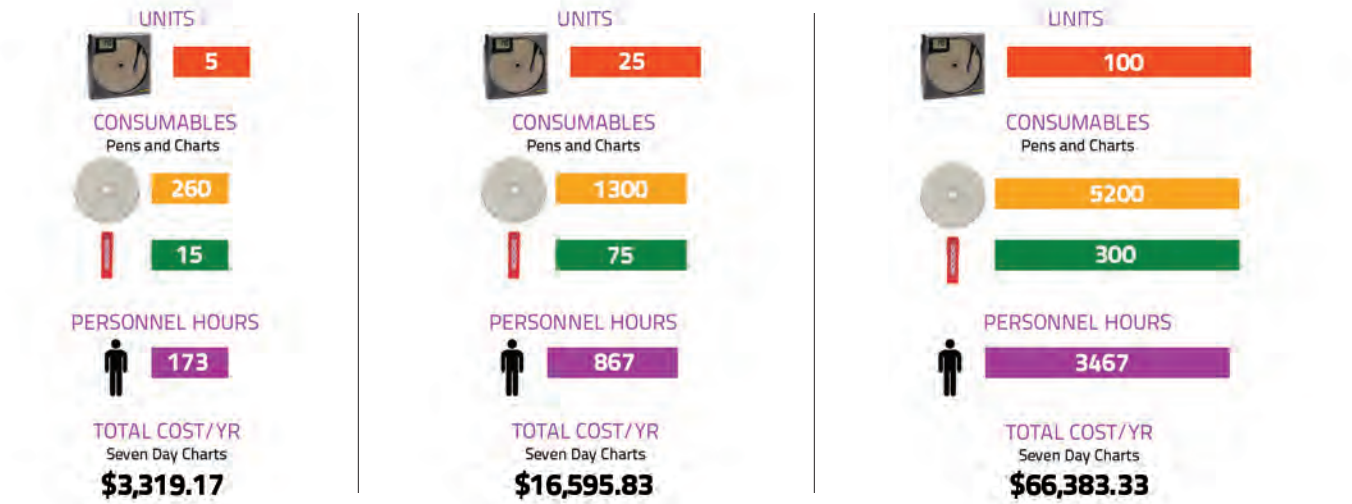
MODEL	REMOTE PROBE	PRICE
WFH20/ENH20	Digital Temperature and Humidity Replaceable Sensor	$499
WFT20/ENT20	Digital Temperature Sensor	$499
WFT21/ENT21	Thermistor Temperature Sensor with Glycol Bottle	$479
WFT23/ENT23	K-Thermocouple Temperature Sensor	$479
WFT25/ENT25	Platinum RTD Temperature Sensor	$599

DicksonOne
Software Pricing

DEVICES	FEATURES	PRICE
1 to 5	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	$119/year
6 to 20	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	$359/year
21 to 50	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	$1199/year
51 +	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	Call for Quote

* Dickson offers a Basic Plan, with 30 Day Data Deletion, and 1 hour sample rates for unlimited loggers at no cost.

Consider The Cost Of That Old Chart Recorder...



Temperature and Temperature/Humidity

Chart Recorders

Want a physical readout right where you are monitoring? Our Chart Recorders have you covered. For ninety years we've built the best chart recorders in the business. Check out our models below.

8 and 6 Inch Models

Eight and Six Inch Chart Recorders display detailed temperature and humidity values.

MODELS AND FEATURES

KT6	6 Inch Temperature	**Starting at $369**
KT8	8 Inch Temperature	**Starting at $419**
TH6	6 Inch Temperature and Humidity	**Starting at $489**
TH8P	8 Inch Temperature and Humidity	**Starting at $489**

4 and 3 Inch Models

Four and Three Inch Temperature Chart Recorders designed to fit any application.

MODELS AND FEATURES

SL4350	4 Inch	**$239**
SL4100	4 Inch	**$239**
SC3 Series	3 Inch	**$239**

Charts sold separately. For charts and accessories, visit Page 16, call **630.543.3747** or go to **www.DicksonData.com.**

PRESSURE DATA LOGGERS

Pressure Data Logger One second sampling rate. User replaceable battery. Optional delayed start. USB connectivity. Pressure sensor includes built-in diaphragm seal.

PR125	**$499**	0-100 PSI
PR325	**$499**	0-300 PSI
PR525	**$599**	0-500 PSI

Rugged Utility Pressure Data Logger Water resistant case. 3 year battery. Unobtrusive design. Fits easily in a toolbox. USB Connection.

PR150	**$499**	0-100 PSI
PR350	**$499**	0-300 PSI

PRESSURE CHART RECORDERS

4 and 8 Inch Models

Four and Eight Inch Chart Recorders to meet your needs.

Single AA battery powered. Rugged low-maintenance design features. 7-day or 24-hour recording times. 1/4 inch NPT Connector.

MODELS AND FEATURES

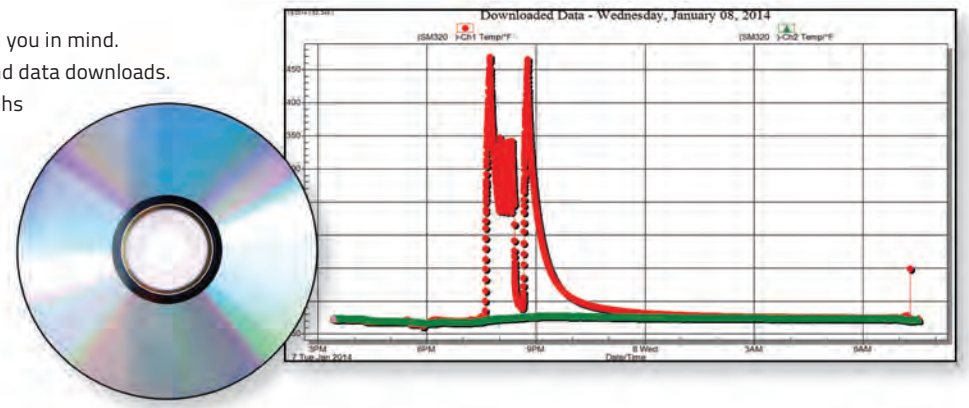
0-100 PSI	**PW860/1**	**$629**		**PW470**	**$449**
0-200 PSI	**PW864/5**	**$629**		**PW474**	**$449**
0-300 PSI	**PW866/7**	**$629**		**PW476**	**$449**
0-500 PSI				**PW479**	**$629**
0-1000 PSI	**PW875**	**$749**			

Charts sold separately. For charts and accessories, visit Page 16, call **630.543.3747** or go to **www.DicksonData.com.**

DicksonWare

DicksonWare Software was designed with you in mind. Easy installation. Painless logger setup and data downloads. Data visualization through populated graphs and tables.

Learn more at **www.DicksonData.com**



PROBE ACCESSORIES

D617 $52 10' K-TC Straight Extension Cable

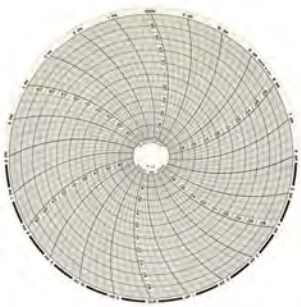
D605 $79 4" Piercing Probe

A203 $125 6" High Temperature Immersion Probe

CHARTS AND PENS

We make reordering charts and pens a cinch.

Only authentic Dickson charts and pens guarantee the accuracy of your temperature, humidity, and pressure data. Fortunately we've made the process of reordering charts and pens fast and easy. Simply go to www.DicksonData.com, click "Charts and Pens" at the top, choose your device, and easily reorder to the exact specifications you desire. Or give us a call.



Go to **DicksonData.com**
Or call **630-543-3747**

The Worst

Temperature Mapping Mistakes

Sometimes knowing what NOT to do is better than knowing what to do. The overload of information on how to validate your warehouse, refrigerator, or incubator can leave one wondering if there is anything you can do incorrectly.

We promise, there is. We talked with our temperature and humidity mapping experts, who have mapped dozens of warehouses, refrigerators, transportation vehicles, incubators, etc., (in other words, if you need it mapped, they have mapped it before) on what are the most egregious temperature mapping mistakes they see on a regular basis. Here's what they told us:

There is no pattern to the placement of loggers. For reasons such as cost, time, or ignorance, our experts find this mistake happens all too often. When mapping a space for the first or hundredth time, you need to establish a pattern. The loggers should not be placed in random bunches, haphazardly across one plane, or sparingly throughout your most critical location. Take time, set out a plan, document that plan, and then execute it. You will attain much better data in the end.

They don't monitor on multiple levels. Our experts still find storage facilities not monitoring on multiple planes. For example, they will walk into a warehouse, notice that temperature sensitive products are stacked to the ceiling, yet will see data loggers only at eye level. Ladders are a bit of a nuisance, but you should monitor on at least every plane that your products are on. The distance you should put in between your temperature recorders depends on how high you are stacking your products. Our experts stress the importance of the product height over the building height when you are concentrating on monitoring the correct planes. If a building is 30 feet tall, but your product is only stacked 12 feet high, focus your attention on that 12 feet.

They have alarm fatigue. While you are mapping or re-mapping your facility, especially if you have products already in the facility, create alarms that actually mean something when they go off. Many temperature mapping data loggers have audio, visual, email, text, and phone call alarms, but not all of them may suitable for your temperature or humidity mapping project. We advise taking time to meet and think about who will receive what alarms, what these designated employees will do when the alarm is set off, and the level of importance of the alarms that you are setting. With the amount of beeps, buzzes, and sirens going off in your facility at one time, you don't want to miss the alerts when your product is being compromised.

They don't monitor finished goods. This is for all you manufacturers out there! Often companies will monitor the raw materials and the processes in their facilities, but not the actual finished goods. This seems a bit counterintuitive to us. Once a product and process has finished, and all that work is complete, don't you want to ensure that the product has remained safe? Don't let the time, effort, and money you've invested go to waste by forgetting to place data loggers with the finished goods.

They don't monitor enough spots, or with enough loggers. This is the most common mistake that we heard from the trenches. If you are going to undertake a temperature mapping project, you shouldn't do it half way. While cost can be an issue, we would argue that the return on investment is very, very good for a complete temperature mapping project. Failed audits, lost product, and lost materials can all be avoided, or at least limited, by undertaking a temperature mapping project in your warehouse.

If up-front cost is an issue, specifically for temperature mapping supplies, try to map your facility in stages. This will take a more thoroughly thought out validation plan, but we think it is worth it. We all tend to believe that temperature is more uniform than it really is. The temperature at your bay door is probably not the same as the temperature at your HVAC outputs. Don't believe us? Try this: place a data logger by a window in your house, and then place one in the center of a room. Compare. The window logger will have much larger temperature swings, we guarantee it. The same concept holds true for your warehouse. You may have problem spots and just not know it yet. Get more loggers, map more spots.

Medical Device Storage Spotlight

The Warehouse Audit Survival Guide

This article completes our series of "Warehouse Audit Survival Guides." To view all our Warehouse Audit Survival Guides, visit **Blog.DicksonData.com/warehouse.**

Know what devices are coming to your facility, are present in your facility, and are leaving your facility at all times. The FDA's list of medical devices runs from bed pans to gas analyzers. With this type of variety, the challenges of surviving a medical device audit from a third-party auditor or the FDA are unique and broad. To ensure your warehouse is safe, you need to know exactly what resides in it. Seems simple, but this stretches across multiple departments and individuals. The manager of the warehouse must oversee that the right people know what is where and when it is there. Providing your QA team with advanced notice of a new product entering your warehouse, a product staying extra-long, or a product leaving early will set the warehouse up for quality assurance success. Monitoring your products and their environment then, is a granular job. Keep on top of it.

Don't hinder your internal auditor. This rule asks different but related things out of management and employees. If you are going to invest in an internal audit, you have to allow that person or team to do their job, particularly if you are worried an FDA auditor may show up at your facility sometime soon. While preparing for your next real audit, management shouldn't impose negative implications on QA managers and floor operators if the mock auditors or internal auditors find something wrong. In fact, they should be happy that the mistakes were found! Mock audits allow companies to see areas for improvement.

In the same vein, floor operators and QA Managers should act as team players during an internal audit. Don't slow down auditors, and don't try to cover up results. It will hurt you in the end.

Create your own survival guide. Your facility is unique to you, so this is the best advice we can give. The above guide provides a template for some common things you absolutely have to know before an auditor knocks on your door. However, you are the one with the experience with your auditors. Validation, SOP's, and verification documents are great, but having a shorter list of things that absolutely, no excuses, have to get done every day, week, or month to help your warehouse survive your next audit will prove invaluable. Customize it, analyze it, and improve it as often as you can.

HOW MOBILE DEVICES ARE CHANGING NURSING

A Healthcare Technology Focus

While lagging a little behind Silicon Valley, hospitals around the United States are transitioning to electronic records, more advanced IT infrastructure, and cloud computing. What does that mean for nurses? A lot. Much more than we can fit into this one page article. However, one portion of change for nurses that we can speak on, is a greater reliance on, and thus use of, mobile technology.

Communication. Let's get the obvious out of the way first. Mobile devices have changed communication within hospitals drastically. Just one example: gone are pagers, and taking their place are cell phones, which means less wasted time walking to find information on why a page was sent, as that information is already in your hand.

Documentation. This is a big one, as EMR overseers are having to deal with the challenge of what to document, when to document, and who to document when a mobile device is being used. Having a patient sign a standard check-up document on an iPad in the waiting room is an easy form of documentation, and can be instituted without too many headaches. However, certain kinds of communication, access to health records, and access to drugs/hospital supplies may be unique to the employee using that mobile device. How do you document permissions, document access, and document use for nurses, an occupation that is a synonym for "busy"? We don't have the answers, but the changes coming will be significant.

Patient Monitoring. Mobile devices have already begun to create an immediacy in the patient-healthcare relationship. Pulling up a patient's information on a tablet or smartphone (in practice) is much quicker than fishing out a patient's medical history from the file cabinet.

Alarm Fatigue. Already an issue and buzzing phrase in the medical industry, having a phone on your person ringing or vibrating every few minutes will greatly increase the amount of alarm fatigue for nurses.

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