

Evacuation Slide Test, Calibration of Heater

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After observing some variability in the test results of a few labs conducting the radiant heat test for evacuation slides, ramps, and rafts, the FAA decided to complete testing aimed at improving the reproducibility of calibration of the apparatus. In the past, some variability has been noted in the heat flux gauges used to calibrate this and other test equipment. Therefore tests were conducted that attempted to eliminate the heat flux gauge and replace it with a power measurement of the radiant heater used in this test. Two power supplies, six heaters, and three heat flux gauges were tested to determine the biggest source of variability in calibration and whether or not measuring input power would improve test reproducibility.