

# HI96786C

Nitrate ISM



# INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Dear  
Customer,

Thank you for choosing a Hanna Instruments product.

Please read this instruction manual carefully before using the instrument.

This manual will provide you with the necessary information for correct use of the instrument, as well as a precise idea of its versatility.

If you need additional technical information, do not hesitate to e-mail us at [tech@hannainst.com](mailto:tech@hannainst.com) or view our worldwide contact list at [www.hannainst.com](http://www.hannainst.com).

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Please examine this product carefully. Make sure that the instrument is not damaged. If any damage occurred during shipment, please contact your local Hanna Instruments Office.

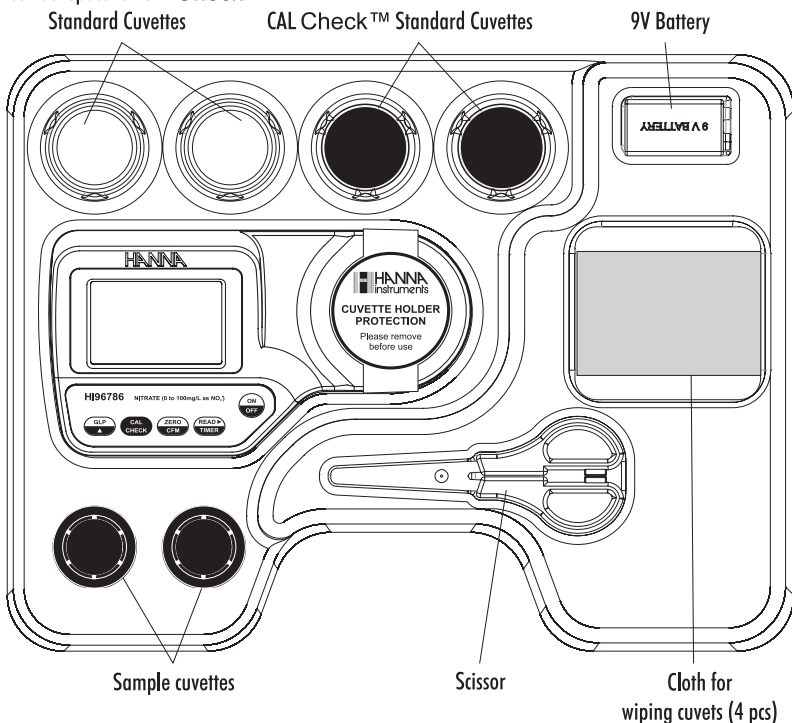
Each HI96786 Ion Selective Meter is supplied complete with:

- Sample Cuvettes and Caps (2 pcs.)
- CAL Check™ standard cuvettes
- 9V Battery
- Scissors
- Cloth for wiping cuvettes
- Instrument Quality Certificate
- Instruction Manual and Quick Reference Guide
- Rigid carrying case

Internal design of carrying case can be different!

*Note: Save all packing material until you are sure that the instrument works correctly. Any defective item must be returned in its original packing.*

Cut-out space for CAL Check™



The [HI96747](#) is an auto diagnostic portable microprocessor meter that benefits from Hanna Instruments' years of experience as a manufacturer of analytical instruments. It has an advanced optical system based on a special tungsten lamp and a narrow band interference filter that allows most accurate and repeatable readings. All instruments are factory calibrated and the electronic and optical design minimizes the need of frequent calibration.

With the powerful **CAL Check™** validation function, you are able to validate good performance of your instrument at any time. The validation procedure is extremely user friendly. Just use the exclusive Hanna Instruments ready-made, NIST traceable standards to verify the performance of the instrument and recalibrate if necessary.

All instruments are splash proof and the lamp and filter units are protected from dust or dirt by a transparent cup. This makes the instruments fulfill field applications. Display messages aid the user in routine operation. The meter has an auto-shut off feature that will turn off the instrument after 10 minutes of non use in measurement mode or after 1 hour if left in calibration mode.

The meter uses an exclusive positive-locking system to ensure that the cuvette is in the same position every time it is placed into the measurement cell. It is designed to fit a cuvette with a larger neck making it easier to add both sample and reagents. The cuvette is made from special optical glass to obtain best results.

The [HI96786](#) meter measures the nitrate-nitrogen content in water samples in the 0 to 100 ppm (mg/L) range. The method is an adaptation of the cadmium reduction method.

The reagent is in powder form and is supplied in packets. The amount of reagent is precisely dosed to ensure the maximum repeatability.

°C: degree Celsius

°F: degree Fahrenheit

mg/L: milligrams per liter. mg/L is equivalent to ppm (parts per million)

mL: milliliter

mV: millivolt

Range	0 to 100 mg/L
Resolution	1 mg/L
Accuracy @25 °C (77 °F)	± 5 mg/L ± 5% of reading
Light Source	Tungsten lamp
Light Detector	Silicon Photocell with narrow band interference filter @525 nm
Method	Adaptation of the cadmium reduction method. The reaction between nitrate-nitrogen and the reagent causes an amber tint in the sample.
Environment	0 to 50 °C (32 to 122 °F); max 95% RH non-condensing
Battery Type	9V (1 pc.)
Auto-Shut off	After 10' of non-use in measurement mode; after 1 hour of non-use in calibration mode; with last reading reminder
Dimensions	192 x 104 x 69 mm (7.6 x 4.1 x 2.7")
Weight	320 g (11.3 oz.).

#### REQUIRED REAGENTS

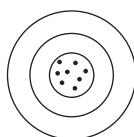
Code	Description	Quantity/test
HI93728-0	Powder Reagent	1 packet

**Precision** is how closely repeated measurements agree with each other. Precision is usually expressed as standard deviation (SD).

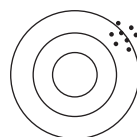
**Accuracy** is defined as the nearness of a test result to the true value.

Although good precision suggests good accuracy, precise results can be inaccurate. The figure explains these definitions.

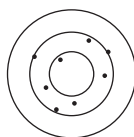
In a laboratory using a standard solution of 50 mg/L nitrate and a representative lot of reagent, an operator obtained with a single instrument a standard deviation of 5 mg/L.



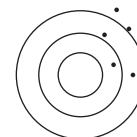
Precise, accurate



Precise, not accurate



Accurate, not precise



Not precise, not accurate

Absorption of Light is a typical phenomenon of interaction between electromagnetic radiation and matter. When a light beam crosses a substance, some of the radiation may be absorbed by atoms, molecules or crystal lattices.

If pure absorption occurs, the fraction of light absorbed depends both on the optical path length through the matter and on the physical-chemical characteristics of the substance according to the Lambert-Beer Law:

$$-\log \frac{I}{I_0} = \epsilon_{\lambda} c d$$

or

$$A = \epsilon_{\lambda} c d$$

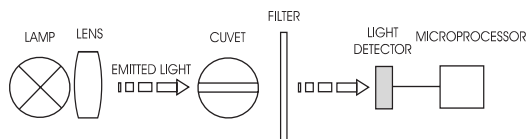
Where:

- $-\log \frac{I}{I_0}$  = Absorbance (A)
- $I_0$  = intensity of incident light beam
- $I$  = intensity of light beam after absorption
- $\epsilon_{\lambda}$  = molar extinction coefficient at wavelength  $\lambda$
- $c$  = molar concentration of the substance
- $d$  = optical path through the substance

Therefore, the concentration “c” can be calculated from the absorbance of the substance as the other factors are known.

Photometric chemical analysis is based on the possibility to develop an absorbing compound from a specific chemical reaction between sample and reagents. Given that the absorption of a compound strictly depends on the wavelength of the incident light beam, a narrow spectral bandwidth should be selected as well as a proper central wavelength to optimize measurements.

The optical system of Hanna Instruments' HI96 series colorimeters is based on special tungsten lamp and narrow-band interference filters to guarantee both high performance and reliable results.



HI96 series block diagram (optical layout)

A microprocessor controlled special tungsten lamp emits radiation which is first optically conditioned and beamed to the sample contained in the cuvette. The optical path is fixed by the diameter of the cuvette. Then the light is spectrally filtered to a narrow spectral bandwidth, to obtain a light beam of intensity  $I_0$  or  $I$ .

The photoelectric cell collects the radiation  $I$  that is not absorbed by the sample and converts it into an electric current, producing a potential in the mV range.

The microprocessor uses this potential to convert the incoming value into the desired measuring unit and to display it on the LCD.

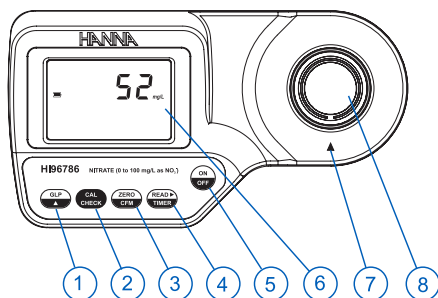
The measurement process is carried out in two phases: first the meter is zeroed and then the actual measurement is performed.

The cuvette has a very important role because it is an optical element and thus requires particular attention. It is important that both, the measurement and the calibration (zeroing) cuvettes, are optically identical to provide the same measurement conditions. Whenever possible use the same cuvette for both. It is necessary that the surface of the cuvette is clean and not scratched. This to avoid measurement interference due to unwanted reflection and absorption of light. It is recommended not to touch the cuvette walls with hands.

Furthermore, in order to maintain the same conditions during the zeroing and the measuring phases, it is necessary to close the cuvette to prevent any contamination.



## INSTRUMENT DESCRIPTION



- 1) GLP/▲ key
- 2) CAL CHECK key
- 3) ZERO/CFM key
- 4) READ▶/TIMER key
- 5) ON/OFF key
- 6) Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)
- 7) Cuvette alignment indicator
- 8) Cuvette holder

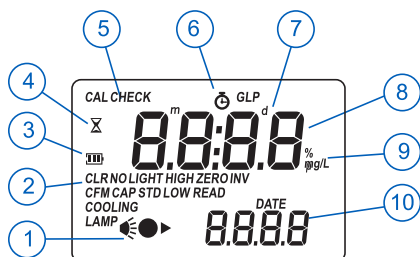
## KEYPAD DESCRIPTION

- **ON/OFF:** to turn the meter on and off.
- **ZERO/CFM:** this is a bi-functional key. Just press to zero the meter prior to measurement, to confirm edited values or to confirm factory calibration restore.
- **READ▶/TIMER:** this is a multi-functional key. In measurement mode, press to make a measurement, or press and hold for three seconds to start a pre-programmed countdown prior to measurement. In GLP mode press to view the next screen.
- **CAL CHECK:** this is a bi-functional key. Just press to perform the validation of the meter, or press and hold for three seconds to enter calibration mode.
- **GLP/▲:** this is a bi-functional key. Just press to enter GLP mode. In calibration mode press to edit the date and time.

## OPERATING MODES

- **Measurement mode:** default operation mode, enables both validation and measurement.
- **Calibration mode:** may be entered by keeping **CAL CHECK** pressed for three seconds (the "CAL" tag appears), it enables calibration of the instrument.
- **GLP mode:** may be entered by pressing **GLP/▲** ("GLP" appears), it enables consulting of user calibration date or restore factory calibration.

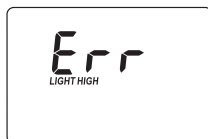
## DISPLAY ELEMENTS DESCRIPTION



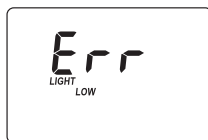
- 1) The measuring scheme (lamp, cuvette, detector), appears during different phases of zero or reading measurement
- 2) Error messages and warnings
- 3) The battery icon shows the charging level of the battery
- 4) The hourglass appears when an internal checking is in progress
- 5) Status messages
- 6) The chronometer appears when the reaction timer is running
- 7) The month, day and date icons appear when a date is displayed
- 8) Four digit main display
- 9) Measuring units
- 10) Four digit secondary display

The instrument shows clear messages when erroneous condition appears. Messages are also displayed when the obtained values are outside expected range. The beeper is playing a beep on errors.

**a) on zero reading**



**Light High:** There is too much light to perform a measurement. Please check the preparation of the zero cuvette.

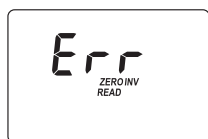


**Light Low:** There is not enough light to perform a measurement. Please check the preparation of the zero cuvette.

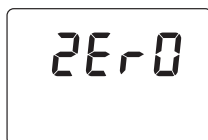


**No Light:** The instrument cannot adjust the light level. Please check that the sample does not contain any debris.

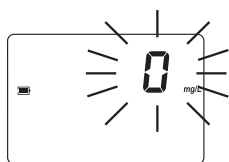
**b) on sample reading**



**Inverted cuvettes:** The sample and the zero cuvette are inverted.



**Zero:** A zero reading was not taken. Follow the instructions of the measurement procedure for zeroing the meter.

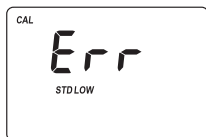


**Under range:** A blinking "0" indicates that the sample absorbs less light than the zero reference. Check the procedure and make sure you use the same cuvette for reference (zero) and measurement.

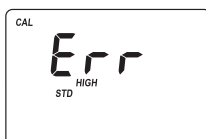


**Over Range:** A flashing value of the maximum concentration indicates an over range condition. The concentration of the sample is beyond the programmed range: dilute the sample and re-run the test.

c) during calibration procedure



**Standard Low:** The standard reading is less than expected.

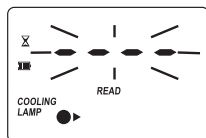


**Standard High:** The standard reading is higher than expected.

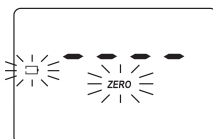
d) other errors and warnings



**Cap error:** Appears when external light enters in the analysis cell. Assure that the cuvette cap is present.



**Cooling lamp:** The instrument waits for the lamp to cool down.



**Battery low:** The battery must be replaced soon.



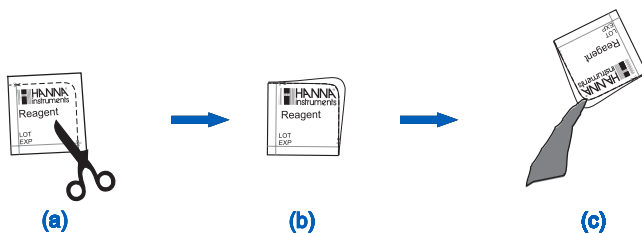
**Dead battery:** This indicates that the battery is dead and must be replaced. Once this indication is displayed, the meter will lock up. Change the battery and restart the meter.

The instructions listed below should be carefully followed during testing to ensure best accuracy.

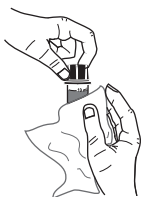
- Color or suspended matter in large amounts may cause interference, therefore these should be removed by treatment with active carbon and by prior filtration.
- For a correct filling of the cuvette: the liquid in the cuvette forms a concavity on the top; the bottom of this concavity must be at the same level of the 10 mL mark.



- Proper use of the powder reagent packet:
  - (a) use scissors to open the powder packet;
  - (b) push the edges of the packet to form a spout;
  - (c) pour out the content of the packet.



- It is important that the sample does not contain any debris. This would corrupt the reading.
- Each time the cuvette is used, the cap must be tightened to the same degree.
- Whenever the cuvette is placed into the measurement cell, it must be dry outside, and completely free of fingerprints, oil or dirt. Wipe it thoroughly with [HI731318](#) or a lint-free cloth prior to insertion.



- Shaking the cuvette can generate bubbles in the sample, causing higher readings. To obtain accurate measurements, remove such bubbles by swirling or by gently tapping the cuvette.
- Do not let the reacted sample stand too long after reagent is added, or accuracy will be lost.
- It is possible to take multiple readings in a row, but it is recommended to take a new zero reading for each sample and to use the same cuvette for zeroing and measurement.
- After the reading it is important to discard immediately the sample, otherwise the glass might become permanently stained.
- All the reaction times reported in this manual are at 25 °C (77 °F). In general, the reaction time should be increased for temperatures lower than 20 °C (68 °F), and decreased for temperatures higher than 25 °C (77 °F).
- In order to maximize accuracy, prior to a measurement follow the validation procedure to be sure that the instrument is properly calibrated. If necessary, calibrate the instrument.

Prepare the instrument for measurement as follows:

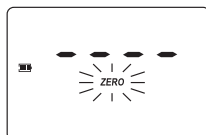
- Unpack the instrument by removing the dust protection sleeve from the instrument cuvette holder.
- Place the battery in the instrument as described in the “BATTERY REPLACEMENT” chapter.
- Place the instrument on a flat table.
- Do not place the instrument under direct sun light.

To compensate the meter for the sample turbidity or color, the measurement takes place in two phases. First, the meter is zeroed using the unreacted sample. After the reagents are added the reacted sample is measured.

- Turn the meter on by pressing **ON/OFF**. The display briefly shows all tags on.



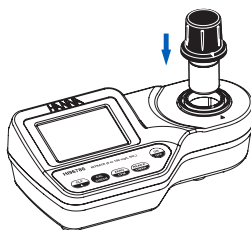
- When the beeper sounds briefly and the LCD displays dashes, the meter is ready. The blinking "ZERO" indicates that the instrument needs to be zeroed first.



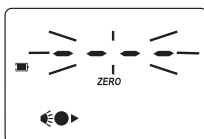
- Fill one cuvette with 10 mL of unreacted sample, up to the mark.



- Place the cuvette into the cuvette holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely into the groove.



- Press **ZERO/CFM** and the lamp, cuvette and detector icons will appear on the display, depending on the measurement phase.



- After a few seconds, the display will show “-0.0-”. The meter is now zeroed and ready for measurement. Remove the cuvette.



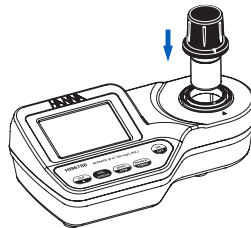
- Add one packet of the [HI93728-0](#) reagent.



- Replace the cap and immediately shake vigorously for exactly 10 seconds by moving the cuvette up and down. Continue to mix by inverting the cuvette gently and slowly for 50 seconds, while taking care not to induce air bubbles. A deposit could remain but it does not affect the measurement. Time and way of shaking could sensitively affect the measurement.

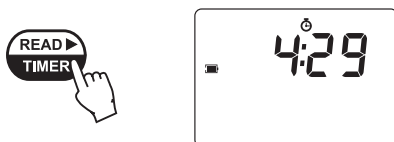


- Replace the cuvette into the cuvette holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely into the groove.

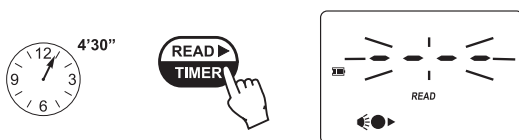




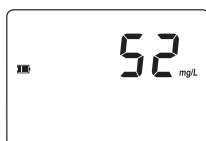
- Press and hold **READ▶/TIMER** for three seconds. The display will show the countdown prior to measurement. An audible “beep” indicates the end of the countdown period.



- Alternatively, wait for 3 minutes then just press **READ▶/TIMER**.  
In all cases, the lamp, cuvette and detector icons will appear on the display, depending on the measurement phase.



- At the end of measurement, the instrument directly displays concentration in mg/L of nitrate on the LCD.



- To convert the reading to mg/L of nitrate-nitrogen, multiply by the factor 0.226.

## INTERFERENCES

Interference may be caused by: Ammonia and amines, as urea and primary aliphatic amines. Chloride above 100 mg/L (negative interference). Chlorine above 2 mg/L (positive interference). Copper (it must be absent). Iron (III) (positive interference). Strong oxidizing and reducing substances. Sulfide (it must be absent).

*Note: To ensure accurate results, perform the tests at room temperature, between 18 °C and 28 °C (65 °F to 83 °F).*

**For best result:** Intensely colored samples or suspended matter in large amounts will cause interference. Therefore sample should be adequately treated before performing the test.

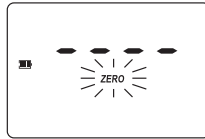
Use the validation procedure to ensure that the instrument is properly calibrated.

**Warning:** Do not validate the instrument with any standard solutions other than the Hanna Instruments CAL Check™ Standards, otherwise erroneous results will be obtained.

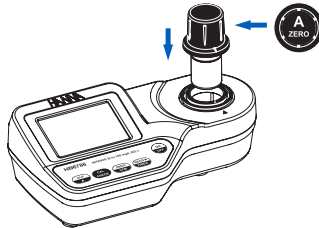
- Turn the meter on by pressing **ON/OFF**.



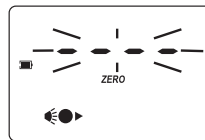
- When the beeper sounds briefly and the LCD displays dashes, the meter is ready. The blinking "ZERO" indicates that the instrument needs to be zeroed first.



- Place the CAL Check™ Standard HI96786-11 Cuvette A into the cuvette holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely into the groove.



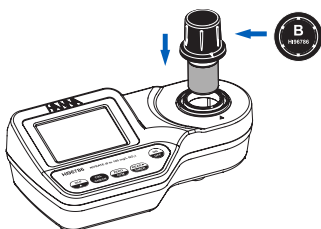
- Press **ZERO/CFM** and the lamp, cuvette and detector icons will appear on the display, depending on the measurement phase.



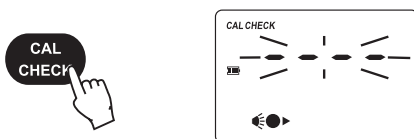
- After a few seconds, the display will show “-0.0-”. The meter is now zeroed and ready for validation.



- Remove the cuvette.
- Place the **CAL Check™ Standard HI96786-11 Cuvette B** into the cuvette holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely into the groove.



- Press **CAL CHECK** and the lamp, cuvette and detector icons together with “CAL CHECK” will appear on the display, depending on the measurement phase.



- At the end of the measurement the display will show the validation standard value.



The reading should be within specifications as reported in the **CAL Check™ Standard Certificate**. If the value is found out of the specifications, please check that the cuvettes are free of fingerprints, oil or dirt and repeat validation. If results are still found out of specifications, then recalibrate the instrument.

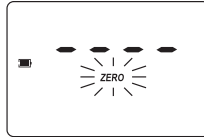
*Note: It is possible to interrupt calibration procedure at any time by pressing CAL CHECK or ON/OFF keys.*

**Warning:** Do not calibrate the instrument with standard solutions other than the Hanna Instruments CAL Check™ Standards, otherwise erroneous results will be obtained.

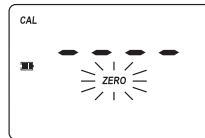
- Turn the meter on by pressing **ON/OFF**.



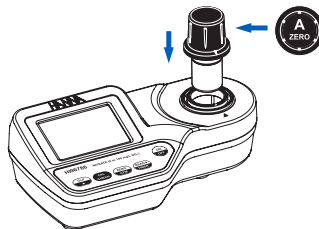
- When the beeper sounds briefly and the LCD displays dashes, the meter is ready.



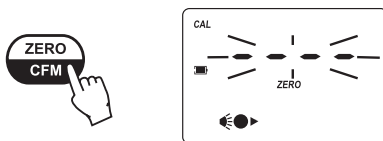
- Press and hold **CAL CHECK** for three seconds to enter calibration mode. The display will show "CAL" during calibration procedure. The blinking "ZERO" asks for instrument zeroing.



- Place the **CAL Check™ Standard HI96786-11** Cuvette A into the cuvette holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely into the groove.



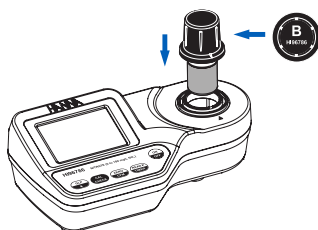
- Press **ZERO/CFM** and the lamp, cuvette and detector icons will appear on the display, depending on the measurement phase.



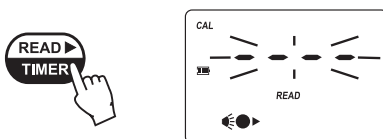
- After a few seconds the display will show “-0.0-”. The meter is now zeroed and ready for calibration. The blinking “READ” asks for reading calibration standard.



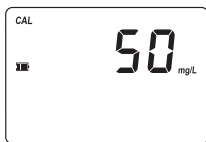
- Remove the cuvette.
- Place the **CAL Check™ Standard HI96786-11 Cuvette B** into the cuvette holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely into the groove.



- Press **READ▶/TIMER** and the lamp, cuvette and detector icons will appear on the display, depending on the measurement phase.



- After measurement the instrument will show for three seconds the **CAL Check™** Standard value.

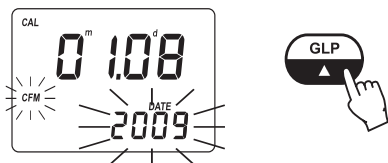


*Note: If the display shows “STD HIGH”, the standard value was too high. If the display shows “STD LOW”, the standard value was too low. Verify that both CAL Check™ Standards HI96786-11 Cuvettes, A and B are free of fingerprints or dirt and that they are inserted correctly.*

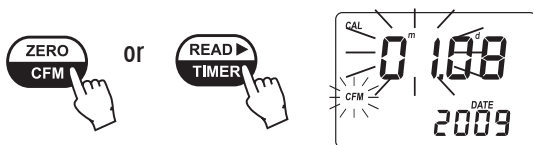
- Then the date of the last calibration (e.g.: “01.08.2009”) appears on the display, or “01.01.2009” if the factory calibration was selected before. In both cases the year number is blinking, ready for date input.

## DATE INPUT

- Press **GLP/▲** to edit the desired year (2009-2099). If the key is kept pressed, the year number is automatically increased.



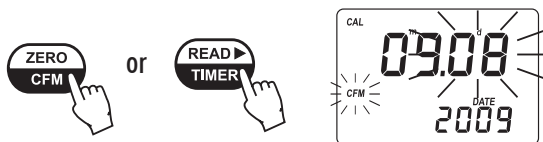
- When the correct year has been set, press **ZERO/CFM** or **READ▶/TIMER** to confirm. Now the display will show the month blinking.



- Press **GLP/▲** to edit the desired month (01-12). If the key is kept pressed, the month number is automatically increased.



- When the correct month has been set, press **ZERO/CFM** or **READ▶/TIMER** to confirm. Now the display will show the day blinking.



- Press **GLP/▲** to edit the desired day (01-31). If the key is kept pressed, the day number is automatically increased.



*Note: It is possible to change the editing from day to year and to month by pressing **READ▶/TIMER**.*

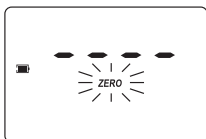
- Press **ZERO/CFM** to save the calibration date.



- The instrument displays **"Stor"** for one second and the calibration is saved.



- The instrument will return automatically to measurement mode by displaying dashes on the LCD.

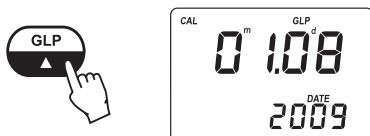


In the GLP mode, the last user calibration date can be consulted and the factory calibration can be restored.

### LAST CALIBRATION DATE

To display the calibration date:

- Press GLP/▲ to enter GLP mode. The calibration month and day will appear on the main display and the year on the secondary display.



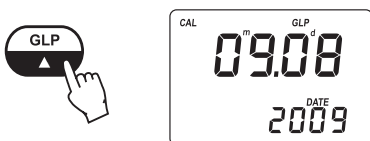
- If no calibration was performed, the factory calibration message, "F.CAL" will appear on the main display and the instrument returns to measurement mode after three seconds.



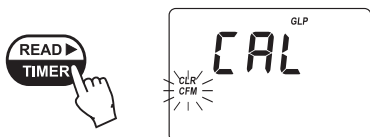
### FACTORY CALIBRATION RESTORE

It is possible to delete the calibration and restore factory calibration.

- Press GLP/▲ to enter GLP mode.



- Press READ▶/TIMER to enter in the factory calibration restore screen. The instrument asks for confirmation of user calibration delete.





- Press **ZERO/CFM** to restore the factory calibration or press **GLP/▲** again to abort factory calibration restore.



- The instrument briefly notifies “donE” when restores factory calibration and returns to measurement mode.



To save battery, the instrument shuts down after 10 minutes of non-use in measurement mode and after 1 hour of non-use in calibration mode.

If a valid measurement was displayed before auto-shut off, the value is displayed when the instrument is switched on. The blinking “ZERO” means that a new zero has to be performed.



One fresh battery lasts for around 750 measurements, depending on the light level.

The remaining battery capacity is evaluated at the instrument startup and after each measurement.

The instrument displays a battery indicator with three levels as follows:

- 3 lines for 100 % capacity
- 2 lines for 66 % capacity
- 1 line for 33 % capacity
- Battery icon blinking if the capacity is under 10 %.

If the battery is empty and accurate measurements can't be taken anymore, the instrument shows “dEAd bAtt” and turns off.

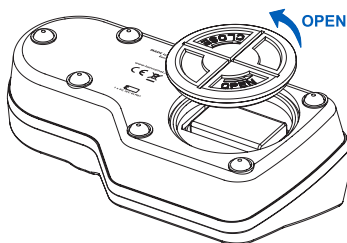
To restart the instrument, the battery must be replaced with a fresh one.

To replace the instrument's battery, follow the steps:

- Turn the instrument off by pressing **ON/OFF**.



- Turn the instrument upside down and remove the battery cover by turning it counterclockwise.



- Extract the battery from its location and replace it with a fresh one.
- Insert back the battery cover and turn it clockwise to close.

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#### Reagent Set

HI93728-01	Reagents for 100 tests
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HI93728-03	Reagents for 300 tests
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#### Other Accessories

HI96786-11	CAL Check™ Standard Cuvettes (1 set)
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HI740029P	9V battery (10 pcs.)
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HI731318	Cloth for wiping cuvettes (4 pcs.)
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HI731331	Glass cuvettes (4 pcs.)
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HI731335	Caps for cuvettes (4 pcs.)
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HI93703-50	Cuvette cleaning solution (230 mL)
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HI740318	Carrying case
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## Recommendations for Users

Before using these products, make sure that they are entirely suitable for your specific application and for the environment in which they are used.

Operation of these instruments may cause unacceptable interferences to other electronic equipments, this requiring the operator to take all necessary steps to correct interferences.

Any variation introduced by the user to the supplied equipment may degrade the instruments' EMC performance.

To avoid damages or burns, do not put the instrument in microwave oven. For yours and the instrument safety do not use or store the instrument in hazardous environments.

## Warranty

**HI96786** is warranted for two years against defects in workmanship and materials when used for its intended purpose and maintained according to the instructions.

This warranty is limited to repair or replacement free of charge.

Damages due to accident, misuse, tampering or lack of prescribed maintenance are not covered.

If service is required, contact your local Hanna Instruments Office . If under warranty, report the model number, date of purchase, serial number and the nature of the failure. If the repair is not covered by the warranty, you will be notified of the charges incurred.

If the instrument is to be returned to Hanna Instruments, first obtain a Returned Goods Authorization Number from the Customer Service Department and then send it with shipment costs prepaid. When shipping any instrument, make sure it is properly packaged for complete protection.

To validate your warranty, fill out and return the enclosed warranty card within 14 days from the date of purchase.

Hanna Instruments reserves the right to modify the design, construction or appearance of its products without advance notice.

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