

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA  
DIRECTORATE OF TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICAL STAFF  
(DITTECS)**

**EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE CENTRE (EMC)**

**1.00 INTRODUCTION**

Equipment Maintenance Project came to existence in the Federal Universities in 1989, under the supervision of National Universities Commission (NUC) and managed by the Department of Research and Postgraduate Development with the support of technical staff from the Universities themselves. In compliance with the NUC directive, UNAAB Equipment Maintenance Centre was set up in 1995 as an offshoot of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the World Bank credit facilities into the Federal Universities. UNAAB had its workshop cited at the Mini campus Isale-Igbein, by the end of the first quarter in 2003, a functional Equipment Maintenance Centre had been established at the permanent site of the University at the Main Campus, Alabata.

The Equipment Maintenance Centre was set-up to ensure that maintenance culture is imbibed by all in order to guarantee the functionality and reliability of all laboratory equipment for much longer period than it has been in the past and to ensure that equipment perform optimally. It is obvious that broken down equipment cannot be used to teach, or demonstrate to students, neither can it be used to carry out research work. Losses consequent on the breaking down of equipment can be minimized by regular and timely maintenance.

**1.10 Roles of Equipment Maintenance Centre**

- i. Maintenance of Teaching and Research Laboratory Equipment in the University;
- ii. Standardization of Equipment Procurement
- iii. Keeping of up to date inventory of laboratory equipment in the University;
- iv. Strengthening of technical capabilities and training and retraining of laboratory personnel on equipment handling;

- v. Creating a well focused equipment maintenance strategy to minimize equipment breakdowns and improve safety of personnel;
- vi Enforcement of compliance with laboratory occupational health and safety rules and regulations;
- vii To ensure that laboratories function for the purpose of skill acquisition and generation of knowledge through capacity building;
- viii. Drawing up of equipment procurement specification lists.

## **STRATEGIES FOR MAINTENANCE OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY**

Equipment Maintenance is keeping equipment in good condition all the time. In doing so, it means equipment has to be checked all the time to ensure that it is properly handled, used and kept after use. It is therefore, the duty of the Equipment Maintenance Centre to provide orientation to all laboratory personnel on how to handle, use, keep and carry out some immediate and little maintenance on their equipment.

There are many types of maintenance that vary from equipment to equipment but they all have common way of carrying out maintenance such as:

- (i) **Routine Check:** This has to be done every day before equipment is put to use and after use.
- (ii) **Periodic Check:** This is arranged to be carried out after sometime, e.g. weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly and yearly.
- (iii) **Servicing:** This is a process that must be done after all checkings have been carried out for a period of time. Servicing provides avenue for cleaning, re-tightening of loose screws and nuts, greasing of some parts and replacement of some consumable components in the equipment such as brushes etc.
- (iv) **Calibration and Re-Calibrations:** Some equipment such as weighing balances and the likes need to be calibrated often to make them more sensitive and accurate all the time of their use.

With all the aforementioned it is therefore incumbent on the Equipment Maintenance Centre to meet and remind on regular basis the equipment users on all the above so that their equipment would be in good condition all the times.