

# Upgrading Handheld Wand Detectors

NMT has made many improvements to our handheld wand detectors. These include more waterproofing, shielding the wand from radio frequency interference, a different method of installing electronics, and changing some of the materials so that they are more stable. These improvements and the resulting long term stability in calibration allowed NMT to increase the minimum detection range of a standard length tag from 2.5 cm to 3.2 cm for all new wands. Many older wands can be upgraded to the new detection range.

The increase in detection range will reduce the number of tags missed during electronic sampling. Because NMT would like to encourage users to upgrade existing wands whenever possible to get the most benefit from the coded wire tag program, we are offering a significant reduction in the cost of the upgrading program by servicing wands at no cost if the wand can be retuned without replacing the nose, or at a significant discount to the standard cost of replacing the nose when needed. The upgrade program is outlined below.

Some existing wands will already meet the new standards. Program supervisors that would like to sort out these wands without returning them to NMT can use a new wooden tag standard (contact NMT if you need one). Wands that meet the new standards are designated by an anodized aluminum end cap. These wands can be marked and returned to NMT at your convenience for a replacement end cap and any needed upgrades. All other wands will need to be returned to NMT for testing and possible upgrading. If you prefer, you are welcome to return all of your wands to NMT without first testing them against the new tag standard.

Wands received at NMT will be in three categories.

1. They will already meet the 3.2 cm detection range and will simply need the aluminum endcap and larger wand standard.
2. They don't meet the 3.2 cm detection range, but can be tuned to meet it without having to replace the nose.
3. They don't meet the 3.2 cm detection range, and require a new nose to be upgraded.

Wands in category 1 or 2 will be upgraded at no cost. When needed, NMT will add additional waterproofing and shielding against radio frequency interference. All wands purchased since May, 2006 can be upgraded to the new detection range, and a significant portion of the wands purchased before May, 2006 can be upgraded to the new range without needing a new nose.

Wands in category 3 will require a new nose. The cost for this is usually \$2650, but to encourage users to upgrade wands, NMT is offering the following discounts:

- NMT will upgrade an existing wand for \$1000; or
- For each new wand purchased, NMT will replace the nose on an existing wand at no charge.

Please note that these discounts apply only to the new style wands and not the older square tipped wands, and the discounts do not apply to wands that have electronics that are not functioning when they arrive at NMT.

We encourage you to contact Ken Molitor at (360) 468-3375 for further details and to discuss servicing schedules.

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