



*Dependable Products From People You Trust*



# Benchtop HTHP Curing Chamber

**Part No. 120-55**

## **Instruction Manual**

Updated 9/5/2025

Ver. 6

**OFI Testing Equipment, Inc.**

11302 Steeplecrest Dr. · Houston, Texas · 77065 · U.S.A.

Tele: 832.320.7300 · Fax: 713.880.9886 · [www.ofite.com](http://www.ofite.com)

©Copyright OFITE 2015

# Table of Contents

<b>Intro</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Description</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Components</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Specifications</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Setup</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<i>Preparing the Slurry</i> .....	<i>6</i>
<b>Operation</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Termination</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Maintenance</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Appendix</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<i>Fuses</i> .....	<i>11</i>
<i>Temperature Controller</i> .....	<i>12</i>
<i>Temperature Units</i> .....	<i>16</i>
<i>Auto Cool</i> .....	<i>17</i>
<i>Rupture Disc</i> .....	<i>18</i>
<b>Warranty and Return Policy</b> .....	<b>19</b>

## ***Intro***

The OFITE Benchtop HTHP Curing Chamber is designed to prepare well cement specimens for compressive strength tests. It is necessary to determine the amount of time required for a cement to develop compressive strength so that drilling/production operations can be resumed as quickly as possible. The goal is to design a slurry that can quickly develop compressive strength so that the "waiting on cement" time may be minimized. The OFITE HTHP Curing Chambers provide a means of curing cement specimens under typical downhole temperatures and pressures.

## ***Description***

Cement is poured into a special mold that produces specimens measuring 2" x 2" x 2". The mold is placed into the test cell and the pressure is increased via an air-driven hydraulic pump. Test temperature is governed by a PID temperature controller, which actuates the heater. After a predetermined amount of time, the temperature of the test cell is reduced by the cooling system. Specimens are removed and the compressive strength is determined as outlined in API Specification 10.

## ***Components***

#120-55-005 High-Pressure Filter  
#120-55-006 Heater; Thinband; 1,650-Watt; 230-Volt; Qty: 2  
#122-052 Rupture Disk; 5,500 psi (37.9 MPa)  
#122-083-1 Cement Mold Assembly, 4 Specimen  
#152-38 AC Power Cord; 3-Conductor; International (Continental European)

### **Optional:**

#120-55-SP Spare Parts for Benchtop Curing Chamber  
#120-55-003 Breaker, 16 Amp  
#120-55-006 Heater, Qty: 2  
#122-034 Needle Valve, 15K, Qty: 2  
#122-052 Rupture Disk, 5,500 psi, Qty: 2  
#122-072 Fuse, 1 Amp, 5 mm x 20 mm, Qty: 8  
#122-083-1 Cement Mold Assembly, 4 Specimen

# Specifications

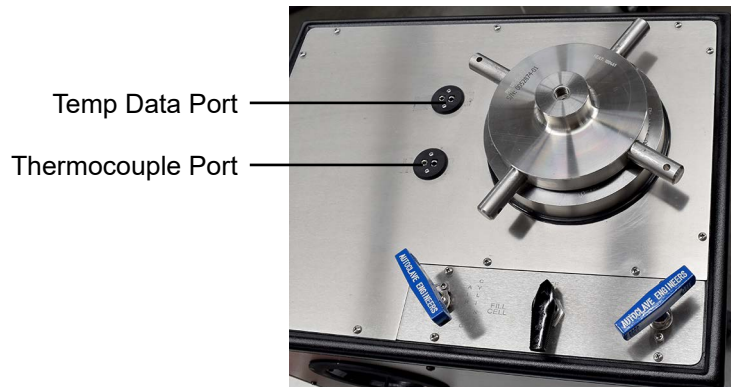
<b>Air Supply</b>	Maximum 150 psi (1035 kPa)
<b>Cooling Water Supply</b>	40 psi (276 kPa)
<b>Readout</b>	Digital
<b>Safety Features</b>	Pressure Relief Valve Safety Head with Rupture Disk
<b>Power Requirements</b>	220 Volts, 50 / 60 Hz, 40 Amp
<b>Weight</b>	215 lb (94.6 kg)
<b>Dimensions</b>	25" × 16" × 20" (63.5 × 40.6 × 50.8 cm)
<b>Shipping Weight</b>	255 lbs (115.8 kg)
<b>Shipping Dimensions</b>	30" × 20" × 24" (76.2 × 50.8 × 61 cm)
<b>Industry Standards</b>	API Specification 10, ASTM Standard C-109

<b>Maximum Temperature / Pressure Combinations</b>	
<b>Temperature °F (°C)</b>	<b>Pressure psi (kPa)</b>
125 (51.7)	5,250 (36,200)
190 (87.8)	4,800 (33,096)
260 (126.7)	4,400 (30,338)
375 (191)	4,000 (27,600)
400.0 (204.4)	3,800 (26,201)

## Setup

The Benchtop Curing Chamber consists of two modules. The Cell Module houses the test cell, heaters, and pressure fittings. The Control Module houses all of the electronic controls and the timer.

1. Carefully remove both modules from the crate.
2. Make sure the “Fill Cell”, “Air to Cylinder”, and “Pressure Release” valves are closed (turned fully clockwise).
3. Connect an air supply (690- 1,035 kPa or 100- 150 psi), a water supply, and a drain line to the designated ¼" (6.35 mm) ports on the back of the Cell Module.
4. Plug the data cable into the designated ports on the two modules.
5. Plug the thermocouple into the Thermocouple Port on the top of the Cell Module. Plug the temp data cable (male on both ends) into the Temp Data Port on the top of the Cell Module. Plug the other end of the cable into the designated port on the back of the Control Module.



6. Make sure all of the switches on the control module are off. Plug the unit into a grounded electrical outlet.
7. Turn the “Main” switch on.



**Control Module:**

- Main Switch** - Provides power to the entire unit.
- Pump Switch** - Provides power to the pump.
- Heat Switch** - Provides power to the heaters.
- Timer Switch** - Provides power to the timer.
- Auto Cool Switch** - Automatically begins cooling at the end of the test.
- Sonalert Switch** - During an alarm condition, the unit will beep only if this switch is on.
- Cool Switch** - Manually begins cooling.
- Alarm Switch** - If this switch is on, the unit will enter an alarm condition when the temperature exceeds 400°F (200°C).
- Temperature Controller** - Controls the temperature in the test. (See page 12 for instructions)
- Timer** - Displays the current duration of the test and controls the Auto Cool function. (See page 17 for instructions)

**Cell Module:**

- Pressure Gauge** - Displays the pressure inside the test cell.
- Regulator** - Controls the pressure inside the test cell. Turn it clockwise to open and counter-clockwise to close.
- Fill Cell Valve** - Allows the cell to fill with water, which adds pressure.
- Air to Cylinder Valve** - Pumps air into the cell to displace the water and allow it to drain.
- Pressure Release Valve** - Releases pressure from the cell.

## Setup

### Preparing the Slurry

It is very important to begin a test as soon as possible after preparing the cement slurry. Before the slurry is prepared, make sure the unit is ready to begin a test. If a custom temperature profile is being used, program the temperature controller (see page 30 for instructions) first before mixing the cement.

1. Spread a thin coat of grease on all interior surfaces of the cement molds (#122-083-1). This will make it easier to remove the cement after the test.
2. Prepare the cement slurry according to API Specification 10.
3. Fill half of each mold with the prepared slurry.
4. With a puddling rod, tap the bottom inside of the cement mold to remove any trapped air bubbles.
5. Stir the remaining slurry and fill each mold to overflowing.
6. Puddle each specimen to remove any trapped air bubbles.
7. Using a straight edge, scrape the excess slurry from the top of each specimen to make them level.
8. Attach the top plate and secure it in place with the screws provided.

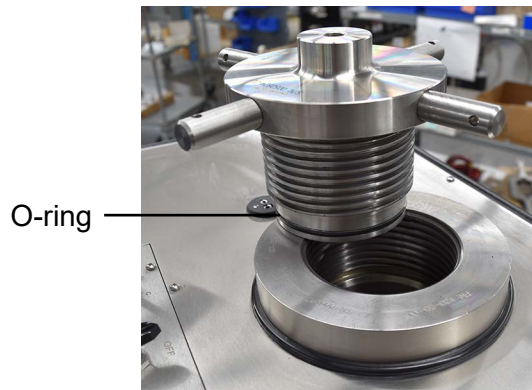


**Cement Molds**

# Operation

Before beginning a test, make sure all switches are in the off position and all valves are closed.

1. Unscrew the cell cap and remove it from the cell.
2. Prepare the cement slurry as described on page 6. Carefully lower the cement molds into the test cell.
3. Remove the handle from the mold.
4. Lubricate the threads and o-ring on the cell cap with high-temperature thread lubricant (#165-44-2).



5. Place the cell cap back onto the cell and screw it in place hand tight. Be careful not to damage the o-ring or threads.
6. Loosen the thermocouple compression fitting in the center of the cell cap. Insert the thermocouple through the compression fitting. Tighten the fitting finger tight and then loosen it  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a turn.
7. Make sure the "Air to Cylinder" and "Pressure Release" valves are closed. Turn the "Regulator" completely counter-clockwise.
8. Turn the "Pump" switch on.
9. Open the "Fill Cell" valve. Water will flow into the test cell and the displaced air will be forced out through the loosened thermocouple compression fitting.
10. Keep a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " wrench handy and watch the top of the cell. When water begins to flow from the compression fitting, tighten it with the wrench. This will ensure that no air remains in the cell.



11. Set the pressure in the test cell by turning the “Regulator” clockwise until the gauge reads the desired pressure. If the pressure rises too high, slowly open the “Pressure Release” valve. When the pressure has dropped, close the valve.

Always release the pressure **very slowly** to avoid pulling cement into the plumbing.



12. Set the temperature controller on the Control Module to the desired temperature.

The temperature controller features both manual and automatic operating modes. To use the manual mode, simply use the up and down arrows to set the test temperature. To use the automatic mode, refer to page 30 for instructions.

13. Turn on the “Heater” switch.

14. Turn the “Sonalert” on to be notified of an alarm condition.

15. Program the set points on the timer and press the “F1/RST” button. See page 17 for more information.

# Termination

When the test is complete, the cement slurry will be fully cured. The system must be shut down very carefully to avoid injury or damage to equipment.

1. Turn the "Heat" switch off.
2. If "Auto Cool" is off, turn on the "Cool" switch. This will begin circulating water through the test cell.
3. When the temperature in the cell drops below 180°F (80°C), turn off the pump and slowly open the "Pressure Release" valve.



**Do not attempt to release the pressure until the temperature is below 180°F (80°C).**

Always release the pressure **very slowly** to avoid pulling cement into the plumbing.

4. Close the "Fill Cell" valve.
5. Slowly open the "Air to Cylinder" valve. This will force the water out of the cell and into the drain line. When air starts escaping from the drain, close the "Air to Cylinder" valve.
6. Make sure the pressure gauge reads 0. Slowly loosen the thermocouple compression fitting and remove the thermocouple.
7. Unscrew and remove the cell cap. Remove the cement molds from the cell and allow them to cool as directed in API Specification 10.
8. Put the cell cap back on the cell to prevent dust and debris from settling inside. Close all valves and turn all switches off.

# ***Maintenance***

1. One of the most important elements of trouble free operation is keeping the interior of the test cell as clean as possible. Never insert a cement covered cement mold into the test cell and periodically examine the test cell to ensure that it is clean. High-pressure valves wear quickly when exposed to fluids containing cement and other particulate matter. Also make sure the air used for the air supply is clear.
2. OFITE uses a high pressure filter to protect valve stems. It is recommended that filtered water be used in the curing chamber to prevent particulate matter from entering the pump and possibly causing damage. Clean or replace these filters when fluid flow is reduced from that of a clean system. Remember: Filters are inexpensive when compared to the costs of replacing the components they were designed to protect.
3. The test cell cap threads have been lubricated prior to shipment and periodically should be re-lubricated.

# Appendix

## Fuses

The Benchtop Curing Chamber uses several fuses and circuit breakers to protect the electrical components. Each of these should be checked periodically. The fuses are located inside the Control Module behind the left side panel. The circuit breakers are located inside the Cell Module behind the back panel.

1. Main Circuit Breaker - Check if there are any problems with power to the unit.
2. Heater Circuit Breaker - Check if the unit's heaters are not functioning.
3. The three fuses in the Control Module are all 1-amp (#122-072). They each protect different systems within the unit.
  - F3: Instruments and Cooling
  - F4: Pump, Heat, and Sonalert
  - F5: Main Relay



Main Circuit Breaker

Heater Circuit Breaker



Fuses

# Appendix

## Temperature Controller



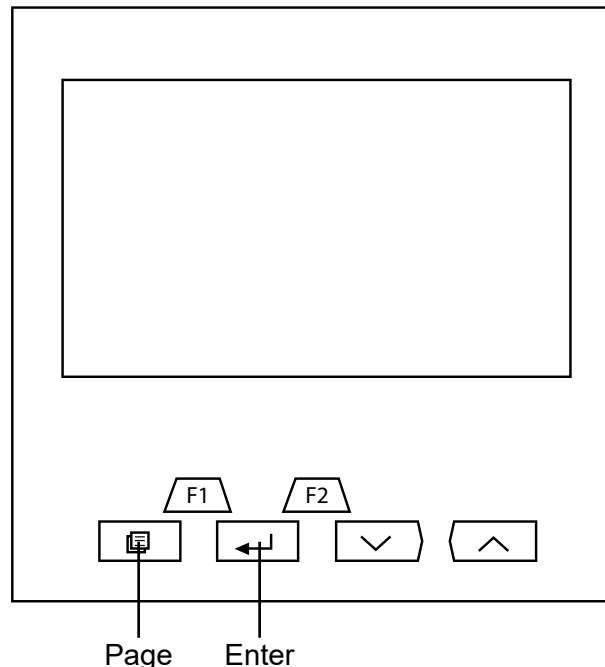
The Eurotherm Model EPC3004 Temperature Controller is the most important component of the temperature control system and it is strongly recommended that operators carefully study the Model EPC3004 instruction manual included with the Curing Chamber.

If a test requires a custom program, it is important to build and save the program prior to creating the slurry and loading the molds.

Below is an example that illustrates how to program the controller. In this example, the target temperature is 150°C, which is obtained at a rate of 2.5 degrees per minute. The target temperature of 150°C is maintained for the duration of 180 minutes (3 hours), after which you want to stop the heat.

Before you can create a program, you must be in Operator Level 2.

1. Press and hold the Page button until LEV1 shows.
2. Press the Up Arrow button until LEV2 shows.
3. Press the Enter button.
4. Press the Enter button three more times to scroll to the last digit of the password.
5. Press the Up and Down Arrow buttons to set the password to “2”.
6. Press the Enter button (the display will show LEV2 PASS) to return to the home screen.



For the test described on the previous page, use the following settings Use the Enter button to decide which setting to change. Use the Arrow buttons to change the values for that setting.

1. Press the Page button until P.SET is displayed. If you don't see P.SET, you will need to enter the password again.
2. Press the Enter button.
3. Press the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select a program number (1-10).
4. Press the Enter button twice. HB.STY will be displayed.
5. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select PROG.
6. Press the Enter button. HB.TYP will be displayed
7. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select LOw.
8. Press the Enter button. HB.VAL will be displayed.
9. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select 10.0.
10. Press the Enter button. RAMP.U will be displayed.
11. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select P.MIN.
12. Press the Enter button. DWEL.U will be displayed.
13. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select M.INS. This will set the Dwell units to Minutes. You can also choose Hours and Seconds.
14. Press the Enter button. P.CYC will be displayed.
15. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select 1.
16. Press the Enter button. P.END will be displayed.
17. Use the Up and Down Arrows to select dwEL.
18. Press the Enter button. S.NUM will be displayed.
19. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select 1.
20. Press the Enter button twice. S.TYPE will be displayed.
21. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select RATE.
22. Press the Enter button. TSP will be displayed.

23. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select 150.
24. Press the Enter button. R.RATE will be displayed.
25. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select 2.5.
26. Press the Enter button twice. S.NUM will be displayed.
27. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select 2.
28. Press the Enter button twice. S.TYPE will be displayed.
29. Use the Up and Down Arrows to select dWELL.
30. Press the Enter button. DUR will be displayed.
31. Use the Up and Down Arrows to select the time (HH:MM).
32. Press the Enter button twice. S.NUM will be displayed.
33. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select 3.
34. Press the Enter button twice. S.TYPE will be displayed.
35. Use the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select ENd.
36. Press the Page button until the display returns to the main screen.

Once the program is entered, do the following to run it:

1. Press the Page button until PROG is displayed.
2. Press the Enter button to select the program number.
3. Press the Enter button until you see P.MODE.
4. Press the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select RuN.

To stop a program, you must be in Operator Level 2. See page 30. Then do the following:

1. Press the Page button until PROG is displayed.
2. Press the Enter button to select the program number.
3. Press the Enter button until you see P.MODE.
4. Press the Up and Down Arrow buttons to select rSET.
5. Press the Page button until the display returns to the main menu.

The status of the program is shown by the program status indicator.

State	Ramp/Step Up	Dwell	Ramp/Step Down
Reset	Blank	Blank	Blank
Run	/	—	\
Hold/Holdback	/	—	\
	Flashing (1 second period 66% duty cycle)	Flashing (1 second period 66% duty cycle)	Flashing (1 second period 66% duty cycle)
Complete (Dwell End)	N/A	— Flashing (2 seconds 66% duty cycle)	N/A

The temperature controller utilizes a high alarm setpoint which will bring the unit to an alarm condition if the temperature ever exceeds the set value. This value is defaulted to 200°C or 400°F, but can be programmed to different values.

An alarm condition will also occur if the slurry thermocouple is unplugged.

When a alarm condition occurs, the Curing Chamber will start to beep if the “SONALERT” switch is turned on and the “ALARM” switch will light up red. The heat and pump will be turned off. After the alarm condition is over, everything will be turned back on.

# **Appendix**

## *Temperature Units*

The Temperature Controller can display temperature in either °F or °C. To change the units:




1. Press and hold the Page button until LEv3 shows.
2. Press the Up Arrow until CONF shows.
3. Press the Enter button to show the code screen.
4. Press the Enter button three more times to scroll to the last digit of the password.
5. Press the Up and Down Arrow buttons to set the password to "0004".
6. Press the Enter button (the display will show CONF PASS/CONF LIST) to return to the home screen.
7. Press the Page button until INSt is displayed.
8. Press the Enter button until dEG.F or dEG.C is displayed.
9. Press the Up or Down Arrow button to change the units.
10. Press and hold the Page button until LEv1 shows.
11. Press the Enter button. The Temperature Controller will now reboot.

# Appendix

## Auto Cool

The OFITE Curing Chamber incorporates a timer for auto-cooling. The timer may be activated by turning the “TIMER” switch to the on position.

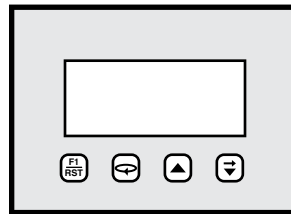
As an example, suppose the temperature is ramping up to 350°F in one hour and maintaining for four hours. After the test, allow it to cool for two hours.

1. Press the  key to select setpoint 1. The setpoint number is in the bottom left-hand corner of the display.
2. Press the up and down arrows to set the setpoint. Remember to set the timer for the number of minutes. In this example, set it to 300 (equivalent to 5 hours).
3. Press the  key to select setpoint 2.
4. Press the up and down arrows to set the setpoint. Remember to set the timer for the **total** number of minutes for the test. In this example, set it to 420 (5 hours of heating plus 2 hours of cooling).
5. Press the  key again to return to the home screen.
6. Press the F1/RST button to start the timer. Make sure the “AUTO COOL” switch is in the “ON” position. After 5 hours the water solenoid will engage and begin cooling the unit. The unit will cool for 2 hours and then the solenoid would de-activate.



Note

While running, the timer counts in minutes. It may not immediately appear to be working. But after one minute, the readout will advance to 2.



Timer Front Panel Layout

# Appendix

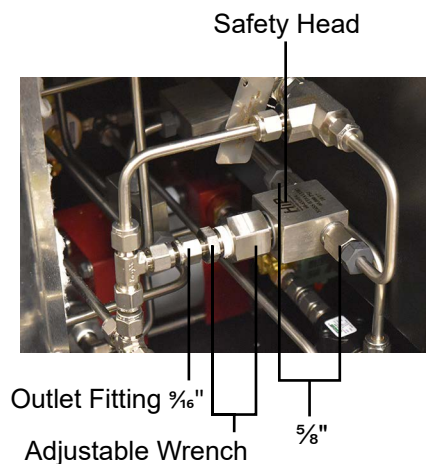
## Rupture Disc

The Curing Chamber is assembled with a rupture disk (#122-052) which is rated for a maximum of 5,500 psi. It is a solid metal preformed differential pressure relief device which is used to protect the system from an overpressure condition. The rupture disk provides instantaneous full-opening within milliseconds of an overpressure situation.

The main symptom of a blown rupture disk that the system will not be able to build pressure.

The rupture disk is located in the back side of the Curing Chamber inside the Safety Head. To replace the rupture disk:

1. Turn the Curing Chamber off and depressurize the air system.
2. Use a phillips head screwdriver to remove the rear panel.
3. Use a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " wrench to remove the top and bottom tube fittings to the Safety Head.
4. Use a  $\frac{9}{16}$ " wrench to remove the Safety Head from the outlet tube fitting.
5. Orient the Safety Head so that the outlet port faces up.
6. Use two adjustable wrenches to remove the outlet fitting and gain access to the rupture disk.
7. Replace the rupture disk (#122-052), reassemble the housing, and reinstall the Safety Head to the tubing.
8. Replace the rear panel.



# Warranty and Return Policy

## Warranty:

OFI Testing Equipment, Inc. (OFITE) warrants that the products shall be free from liens and defects in title, and shall conform in all respects to the terms of the sales order and the specifications applicable to the products. All products shall be furnished subject to OFITE's standard manufacturing variations and practices. Unless the warranty period is otherwise extended in writing, the following warranty shall apply: if, at any time prior to twelve (12) months from the date of invoice, the products, or any part thereof, do not conform to these warranties or to the specifications applicable thereto, and OFITE is so notified in writing upon discovery, OFITE shall promptly repair or replace the defective products. Notwithstanding the foregoing, OFITE's warranty obligations shall not extend to any use by the buyer of the products in conditions more severe than OFITE's recommendations, nor to any defects which were visually observable by the buyer but which are not promptly brought to OFITE's attention.

In the event that the buyer has purchased installation and commissioning services on applicable products, the above warranty shall extend for an additional period of twelve (12) months from the date of the original warranty expiration for such products.

In the event that OFITE is requested to provide customized research and development for the buyer, OFITE shall use its best efforts but makes no guarantees to the buyer that any products will be provided.

OFITE makes no other warranties or guarantees to the buyer, either express or implied, and the warranties provided in this clause shall be exclusive of any other warranties including ANY IMPLIED OR STATUTORY WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR PURPOSE, MERCHANTABILITY, AND OTHER STATUTORY REMEDIES WHICH ARE WAIVED.

This limited warranty does not cover any losses or damages that occur as a result of:

- Improper installation or maintenance of the products
- Misuse
- Neglect
- Adjustment by non-authorized sources
- Improper environment
- Excessive or inadequate heating or air conditioning or electrical power failures, surges, or other irregularities
- Equipment, products, or material not manufactured by OFITE
- Firmware or hardware that have been modified or altered by a third party
- Consumable parts (bearings, accessories, etc.)

## Returns and Repairs:

Items being returned must be carefully packaged to prevent damage in shipment and insured against possible damage or loss. OFITE will not be responsible for equipment damaged due to insufficient packaging.

Any non-defective items returned to OFITE within ninety (90) days of invoice are subject to a 15% restocking fee. Items returned must be received by OFITE in original condition for it to be accepted. Reagents and special order items will not be accepted for return or refund.

OFITE employs experienced personnel to service and repair equipment manufactured by us, as well as other companies. To help expedite the repair process, please include a repair form with all equipment sent to OFITE for repair. Be sure to include your name, company name, phone number, email address, detailed description of work to be done, purchase order number, and a shipping address for returning the equipment. All repairs performed as "repair as needed" are subject to the ninety (90) day limited warranty. All "Certified Repairs" are subject to the twelve (12) month limited warranty.

Returns and potential warranty repairs require a Return Material Authorization (RMA) number. An RMA form is available from your sales or service representative.

Please ship all equipment (with the RMA number for returns or warranty repairs) to the following address:

OFI Testing Equipment, Inc.  
Attn: Repair Department  
11302 Steeplecrest Dr.  
Houston, TX 77065  
USA

OFITE also offers competitive service contracts for repairing and/or maintaining your lab equipment, including equipment from other manufacturers. For more information about our technical support and repair services, please contact [techservice@ofite.com](mailto:techservice@ofite.com).