

## Application Note

### Shelf life of pH electrodes

Electrodes have an average life span of 2 – 5 years. Due to the chemical reaction inside the electrode, the electrode begins “working” on the first day it is manufactured. Improper storage of the electrode can shorten the life of the electrode just as fast as improper use of the electrode. It is also not uncommon for a “new” electrode which sits in a drawer for several years to not work due to the life span of a probe.

Why is there a shelf life?

- Some of the electrolyte solution may evaporate causing KCl crystals to block the diaphragm
- Some of the AgCl of the reference could slowly dissolve causing improper function of the electrode.

What can I do to maximize the life of my electrode?

- Make sure internal filling solution is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full
- Clean and recondition as needed (refer to electrode instructions)
- Store the electrode with the fill hole closed (if applicable)
- Store electrode at room temperature
- Store electrode in the proper storage solution (refer to electrode instructions)