

VU or PPM what a mess

The quickest way to go grey: monitoring levels during production using one type of meter and having it quality checked on the other.

When you step back for a moment and think about it, the above is far from surprising.

After all the VU Meter^[1] was introduced back in....a long time ago and the PPM^[2] was introduced.....a bit after that. But what really matters is that a VU meter possesses one set of characteristics and a PPM a very different set.

And why is this? Because the PPM was specifically designed to measure different aspects of a signal!

So as expected (and by design) if you monitor the same signal on both meters it will look entirely different.

Which is right and which is wrong? The following (simple) table is unlikely to help, but may go some way to explaining why agreement is limited.

Consider:

Person A is sending program to Person B. Person A sets levels correctly (using each meter) and Person B assesses the program levels on the opposite meter.

Person A		Person B	
Uses	To set	Assesses using VU Meter	Assesses using PPM
VU Meter	Average Levels	Agreement (probably. most of the time, in theory)	Guaranteed argument!
	Peak Levels		Guaranteed argument!
	Static Reference Levels		Possible agreement (once respective references are decided)
PPM	Average Levels	Guaranteed argument!	Agreement (probably. most of the time, in theory)
	Peak Levels	Guaranteed argument!	
	Static Reference Levels	Possible agreement (once respective references are decided)	

Solution to the above.....become a CCU operator.

Notes:

[1] VU Meter as in one with the correct ballistics etc

[2] PPM as in one with the correct ballistics etc