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PXIe-5652

CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

PXIe-5646

Reconfigurable 6 GHz RF Vector Signal Transceiver with 200 MHz Bandwidth

This document contains the verification and adjustment procedures for the PXIe-5646 vector signal transceiver.

Refer to ni.com/calibration for more information about calibration solutions.



Caution Do not disconnect the cable that connects CAL IN to CAL OUT. Removing the cable from or tampering with the CAL IN or CAL OUT front panel connectors voids the product calibration and specifications are no longer warranted.

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Required Software

Calibrating the PXIe-5646 requires you to install the following software on the calibration system:

- LabVIEW 2013 SP1 Base/Full/Pro or later
- PXIe-5644/5645/5646 Instrument Design Libraries 13.5 or later
- NI-RFSA 15.0.2 or later
- NI-RFSG 15.0.2 or later
- Modulation Toolkit 4.3.3 or later
- Spectral Measurements Toolkit 2.6.3 or later

You can download all required software from ni.com/downloads.

Related Documentation

For additional information, refer to the following documents as you perform the calibration procedure:

- *NI PXIe-5646 Getting Started Guide*
- *NI RF Vector Signal Transceivers Help*
- *PXIe-5646 Specifications*
- *NI RF Signal Generators Help*

Visit ni.com/manuals for the latest versions of these documents.

Test Equipment

NI recommends that you use particular equipment for the performance verification and adjustment procedures.

If the recommended equipment is not available, select a substitute using the minimum requirements listed in the following table.

Table 1. Required Equipment Specifications for PXIe-5646 Calibration

| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Frequency reference | Symmetricon 8040 Rubidium Frequency Standard | Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal frequency reference • Nonharmonic spurs • Spectral purity • IMD3 • IMD2 • Output noise density • Output second harmonics Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy | Frequency: 10 MHz Frequency accuracy: $\leq \pm 1\text{E-}9$ Output mode: sinusoid |
| Power sensor | Rohde & Schwarz (R&S) NRP-Z91 | Test system characterization Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Frequency response • Output power level accuracy • LO OUT (RF IN 0 and RF OUT 0) Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy • LO OUT (RF IN 0 and RF OUT 0) | Range: -67 dBm to +23 dBm Frequency range: 65 MHz to 6 GHz Absolute uncertainty: 0.174 dB Power linearity: <0.1 dB VSWR: <1.2:1 up to 6 GHz |

Table 1. Required Equipment Specifications for PXIe-5646 Calibration (Continued)

| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Vector signal generator | PXIe-5673E | Test system characterization Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal frequency reference• Absolute amplitude accuracy• Frequency response• Input nonharmonic spurs• Input IMD3• Input EVM• Input IMD2 Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal frequency reference• Absolute amplitude accuracy• LO OUT (RF IN 0 and RF OUT 0) | Frequency range: 65 MHz to 6 GHz Frequency resolution: <5 Hz Amplitude range: -70 dBm to 5 dBm Instantaneous bandwidth: 50 MHz |

Table 1. Required Equipment Specifications for PXIe-5646 Calibration (Continued)

| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|---|-------------------|--|--|
| Spectrum analyzer or vector signal analyzer | PXIe-5665 | Test system characterization Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spectral purity• Output power level accuracy• Output frequency response• Output noise density• Output second harmonics• Output nonharmonic spurs• Output IMD3• Output EVM Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Output power level accuracy | Frequency range: 65 MHz to 12 GHz Instantaneous bandwidth: 50 MHz Phase noise at 20 kHz offset: <-125 dBm/Hz |
| Preamplifier | PXI-5691 | Output noise density verification | Frequency range: 65 MHz to 8 GHz Noise floor at 6 GHz: <-158 dBm/Hz |

Table 1. Required Equipment Specifications for PXIe-5646 Calibration (Continued)

| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Power splitter | Aeroflex/Weinschel 1593 | Test system characterization Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency response • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy | VSWR: $\leq 1.25:1$ up to 18 GHz Amplitude tracking: <0.25 dB |
| 6 dB attenuator (x2) | Anritsu 41KB-6 or Mini-Circuits | Test system characterization Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency response • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz VSWR: $\leq 1.1:1$ |
| 50 Ω SMA terminator | — | Test system characterization Average noise density verification | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz VSWR: $\leq 1.1:1$ |

Table 1. Required Equipment Specifications for PXIe-5646 Calibration (Continued)

| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable | — | All procedures | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz Impedance: 50 Ω |
| SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter | Huber+Suhner 32_SMA_N-50-1/1-_UE | Test system characterization Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequency response• Absolute amplitude accuracy• Output power level accuracy• LO OUT (RF IN 0 and RF OUT 0) Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absolute amplitude accuracy• Output power level accuracy• LO OUT (RF IN 0 and RF OUT 0) | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz Impedance: 50 Ω Return loss: ≥ 23 dB |
| SMA (f)-to-N (f) adapter | Huber+Suhner 31_N-SMA-50-1/1-_UE | Test system characterization | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz Impedance: 50 Ω Return loss: ≥ 23 dB |

Table 1. Required Equipment Specifications for PXIe-5646 Calibration (Continued)

| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) adapter | Huber+Suhner 32_PC35-50-0-2/199_NE | Test system characterization Verifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency response • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute amplitude accuracy • Output power level accuracy | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz Impedance: 50 Ω Return loss: ≥ 30 dB |
| 3.5 mm (f)-to-3.5 mm (f) adapter | Huber+Suhner 32_PC35-50-0-1/199_UE | Test system characterization | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz Impedance: 50 Ω Return loss: ≥ 30 dB |

The following table lists equipment required to perform optional verification for non-warranted specifications of the PXIe-5646.

Table 2. Required Equipment Specifications for Optional PXIe-5646 Verification

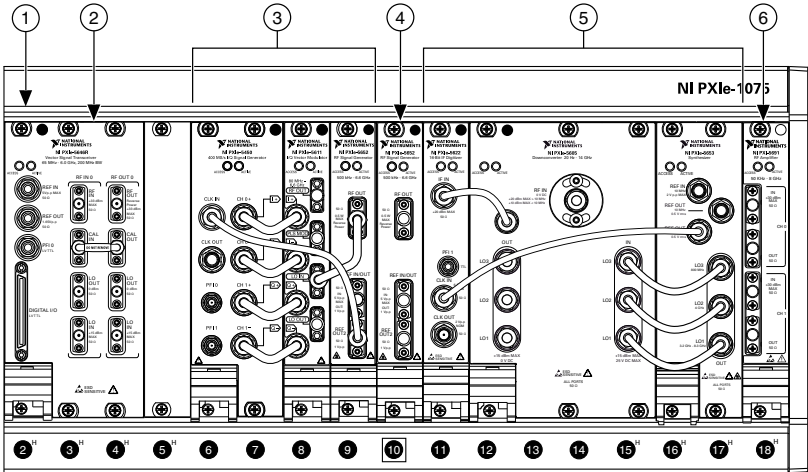
| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| CW signal generator | PXIe-5652 | Input IMD3 Input IMD2 | Frequency range: 65 MHz to 6 GHz Frequency resolution: <5 Hz Amplitude range: -30 dBm to 0 dBm |
| Power splitter | Mini-Circuits ZFRSC-123+ | Input IMD3 Input IMD2 | >20 dB reverse isolation at 6 GHz |

Table 2. Required Equipment Specifications for Optional PXIe-5646 Verification (Continued)

| Equipment | Recommended Model | Where Used | Minimum Requirements |
|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable (x2) | — | Input IMD3 Input IMD2 | Frequency range: DC to 6 GHz |
| Frequency reference | Symmetricon 8040 Rubidium Frequency Standard | Input IMD3 Input IMD2 | Frequency: 10 MHz Frequency accuracy: $\leq \pm 1\text{E-}9$ |
| Two-port vector network analyzer (VNA) | PXIe-5630 | Return loss | Frequency range: 65 MHz to 6 GHz |

The following figure shows a recommended calibration system configuration for the PXIe-5646.

Figure 1. Recommended PXIe-5646 Calibration System



1. PXIe-1075 Chassis
2. Slot 2: PXIe-5646 (Device Under Test)
3. Slot 6: PXIe-5673E Vector Signal Generator
4. Slot 10: PXI-5652 RF Analog Signal Generator and CW Source or PXIe-5652 RF Analog Signal Generator and CW Source
5. Slot 11: PXIe-5665 Vector Signal Analyzer
6. Slot 18: PXI-5691 RF Amplifier

Test Conditions

The following setup and environmental conditions are required to ensure the PXIe-5646 meets published specifications.

- Keep cabling as short as possible. Long cables act as antennas, picking up extra noise that can affect measurements.
- Verify that all connections to the PXIe-5646, including front panel connections and screws, are secure.
- Maintain an ambient temperature of $23\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Keep relative humidity between 10% and 90%, noncondensing.
- Allow a warm-up time of at least 30 minutes after the chassis is powered on and PXIe-5644/5645/5646 Instrument Design Libraries is loaded and recognizes the PXIe-5646. The warm-up time ensures that the PXIe-5646 and test instrumentation are at a stable operating temperature.
- In each verification procedure, insert a delay between configuring all instruments and acquiring the measurement. This delay may need to be adjusted depending on the instruments used but should always be at least 1,000 ms for the first iteration, 1,000 ms when the power level changes, and 100 ms for each other iteration.
- Ensure that the PXI chassis fan speed is set to HIGH, that the fan filters, if present, are clean, and that the empty slots contain filler panels. For more information about cooling, refer to the *Maintain Forced-Air Cooling Note to Users* document available at ni.com/manuals.

Initial Setup

Refer to the *PXIe-5646 Getting Started Guide* for information about how to install the software and the hardware and how to configure the device in Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX).

Test System Characterization

The following procedures characterize the test equipment used during verification and adjustment.



Caution The connectors on the device under test (DUT) and test equipment are fragile. Perform the steps in these procedures with great care to prevent damaging any DUTs or test equipment.

Zeroing the Power Sensor

1. Ensure that the power sensor is not connected to any signals.
2. Zero the power sensor using the built-in function, according to the power sensor documentation.

Characterizing Power Splitter Balance

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

This procedure characterizes the balance between the two output terminals of the splitter, where the second terminal is terminated into an attenuator. The following procedures require the power splitter balance data:

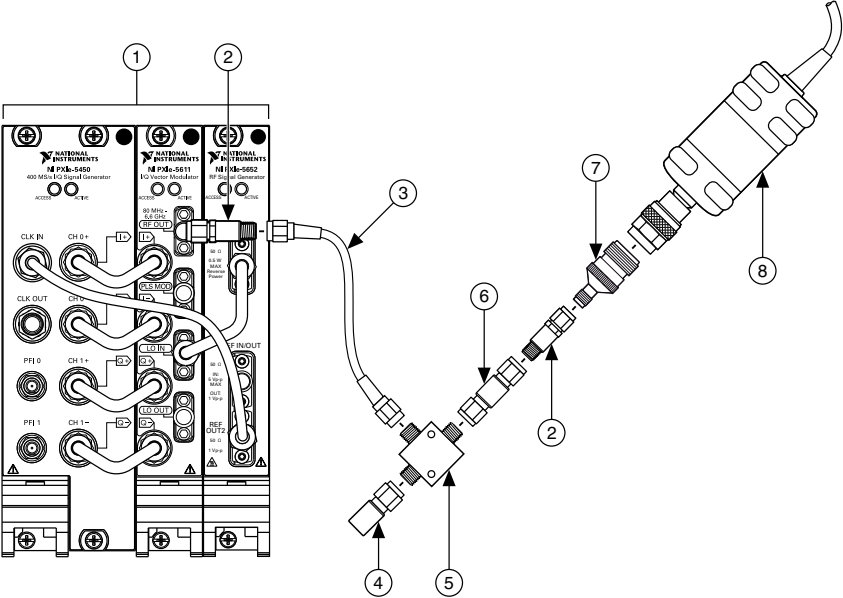
- [Verifying Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy](#)
- [Verifying Input Frequency Response](#)
- [Adjusting Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy](#)

The verification and adjustment procedures use different test points for the splitter balance characterization. For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz to 6 GHz in 5 MHz steps for the test points.

1. Connect the SMA (m) connector of the 6 dB attenuator to the RF OUT front panel connector of the vector signal generator.
2. Connect the SMA (f) connector of the 6 dB attenuator to the input port of the power splitter using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
3. Connect the 50 Ω (m) terminator to one of the power splitter output ports. Refer to this port as *splitter output 1*.
4. Connect the other power splitter output to the SMA (f) connector of the second 6 dB attenuator using a 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) adapter. Refer to the combined power splitter output and 6 dB attenuator as *splitter output 2*.
5. Connect the power sensor to splitter output 2 using the SMA (f)-to-N (f) adapter.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 2. Connection Diagram for Measuring at Splitter Output 2



1. Vector Signal Generator
 2. 6 dB Attenuator
 3. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 4. 50 Ω Terminator
 5. Power Splitter
 6. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter
 7. SMA (f)-to-N (f) Adapter
 8. Power Sensor
6. Configure the vector signal generator using the following settings:
- Center frequency: For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the first test point in the following table. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz. For either procedure type, store as *frequency*.
 - Power level: 0 dBm

Table 3. Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures

| Test Points (MHz) | Step Size (MHz) |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 80 to 100 | 5 |
| 250 | — |
| 290 to 310 | 5 |
| 350 to 400 | 50 |
| 410 to 490 | 5 |
| 500 | — |

Table 3. Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures (Continued)

| Test Points (MHz) | Step Size (MHz) |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 510 to 690 | 5 |
| 700 to 750 | 50 |
| 760 to 840 | 5 |
| 850 to 900 | 50 |
| 910 to 1,090 | 5 |
| 1,160 to 1,240 | 5 |
| 1,400 | — |
| 1,510 to 1,690 | 5 |
| 1,800 | — |
| 1,960 to 2,040 | 5 |
| 2,200 to 2,600 | 200 |
| 2,610 to 2,790 | 5 |
| 2,800 | — |
| 2,960 to 3,040 | 5 |
| 3,200 to 3,600 | 200 |
| 3,760 to 3,840 | 5 |
| 3,910 to 4,090 | 5 |
| 4,200 | — |
| 4,460 to 4,540 | 5 |
| 4,600 to 4,800 | 200 |
| 4,910 to 5,090 | 5 |
| 5,200 to 5,400 | 200 |
| 5,460 to 5,540 | 5 |
| 5,600 to 5,800 | 200 |
| 5,910 to 5,990 | 5 |
| 6,000 | — |

7. Configure the power sensor to correct for *frequency* using the power sensor frequency correction function.
8. Use the power sensor to measure the power at the *frequency* from step 6.

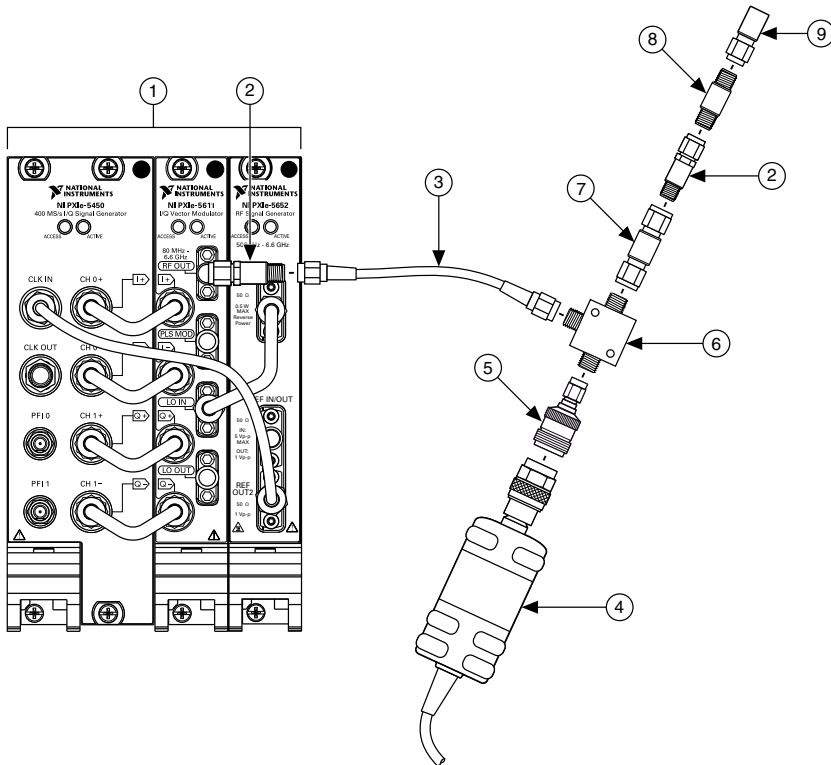
9. Repeat steps 6 through 8 by updating *frequency*. For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz to 6 GHz in 5 MHz steps for the test points.

Record the resulting measurements as *splitter output 2 power*. Each frequency should have a corresponding value.

10. Disconnect the power sensor and 50 Ω terminator from the power splitter.
11. Connect the power sensor to splitter output 1 using an SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.
12. Connect the 50 Ω terminator to splitter output 2 using an SMA (f)-to-SMA (f) adapter.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 3. Connection Diagram for Measuring at Splitter Output 1



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Vector Signal Generator | 6. Power Splitter |
| 2. 6 dB Attenuator | 7. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter |
| 3. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable | 8. 3.5 mm (f)-to-3.5 mm (f) Adapter |
| 4. Power Sensor | 9. 50 Ω Terminator |
| 5. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter | |

13. Configure the vector signal generator using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the first test point in the *Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures* table. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz. For either procedure type, store as *frequency*.
 - Power level: 0 dBm
14. Configure the power sensor to correct for *frequency* using the power sensor frequency correction function.
15. Use the power sensor to measure the power.
16. Repeat steps 13 through 15 by updating *frequency*. For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the test points in the *Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures* table. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz to 6 GHz in 5 MHz steps for the test points.

Record the resulting measurements as *splitter output 1 power*. Each frequency should have a corresponding value.

17. Calculate the splitter balance for each frequency point using the following equation:

$$\text{splitter balance} = \text{splitter output 2 power} - \text{splitter output 1 power}$$

Characterizing Power Splitter Loss

This procedure characterizes the loss through the power splitter.

You must zero the power sensor as described in the *Zeroing the Power Sensor* section prior to starting this procedure.

The following procedures require the power splitter loss data:

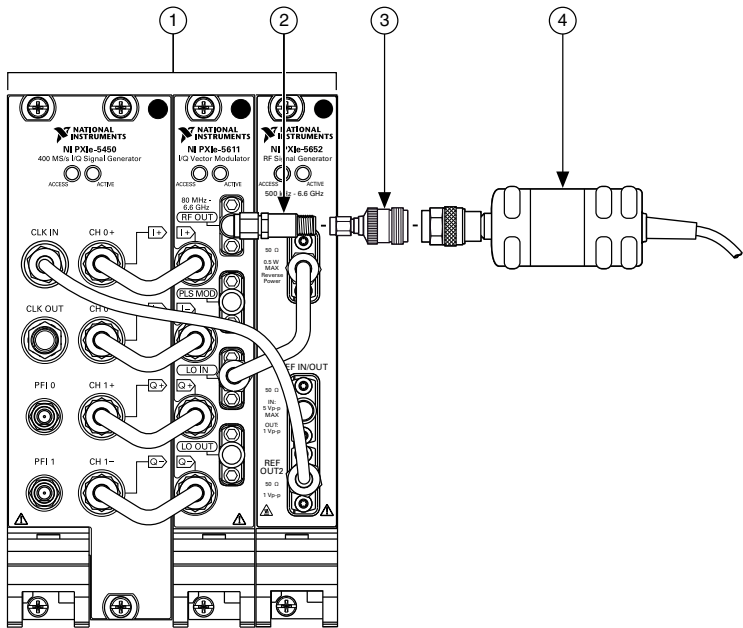
- *Verifying Output Power Level Accuracy*
- *Verifying Output Frequency Response*
- *Adjusting Output Power Level Accuracy*

The verification and adjustment procedures use different test points for the splitter loss characterization. For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the test points in the *Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures* table. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz to 6 GHz in 5 MHz steps for the test points.

1. Connect the SMA (m) connector of the 6 dB attenuator to the RF OUT front panel connector of the vector signal generator.
2. Connect the SMA (f) connector of the 6 dB attenuator to the power sensor using an SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 4. Connection Diagram for Measuring Splitter Input Power



1. Vector Signal Generator
 2. 6 dB Attenuator
 3. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter
 4. Power Sensor
3. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a tone using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the first test point in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz.
 - Power level: Configured output power from transfer function A in the following table.
 - Tone offset: 3.75 MHz

Table 4. Accuracy Transfer Definitions

| Transfer Function | Supported Output Power Level (dBm) | Configured Output Power (dBm) | Configured Reference Level (dBm) |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A | +10 to -20 | 0 | 10 |
| B | -20 to -40 | -15 | -30 |

4. Configure the power sensor to correct for the center frequency from step 3 using the power sensor frequency correction function.
5. Use the power sensor to measure the output power.

6. Repeat steps 3 through 5 for the remaining frequencies. For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the test points from the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz to 6 GHz in 5 MHz steps for the test points.

Record the resulting measurements as *splitter input power*. Each frequency should have a corresponding value.

7. Disconnect the power sensor from the 6 dB attenuator.
8. Connect the power splitter input port to the SMA (f) port of the 6 dB attenuator using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) adapter.
9. Connect the power sensor to one of the splitter output ports using the SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.

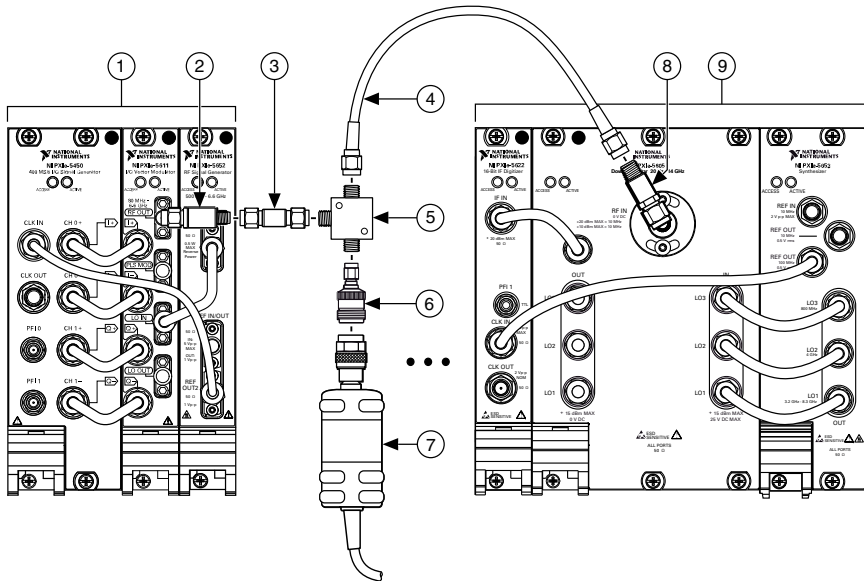
Refer to this port as *splitter output 1* for the remainder of this procedure and all tests that use the resulting characterization data.

10. Connect the other output of the power splitter to the SMA (f) connector of a second 6 dB attenuator using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
11. Connect the SMA (m) connector of the second 6 dB attenuator to the RF IN front panel port of the spectrum analyzer.

Refer to this port as *splitter output 2* for the remainder of this procedure and all tests that use the resulting characterization data.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 5. Connection Diagram for Measuring Splitter Output 1 Power



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Vector Signal Generator | 6. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter |
| 2. 6 dB Attenuator | 7. Power Sensor |
| 3. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Adapter | 8. 6 dB Attenuator |
| 4. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable | 9. Spectrum Analyzer |
| 5. Power Splitter | |



Note If you use the PXIe-5665, as recommended, for the spectrum analyzer, disable the preamplifier and preselector options and set the FFT window type to Flat Top.

12. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a tone using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 3.
 - Power level: *Configured output power* from transfer function A in the *Accuracy Transfer Definitions* table.
13. Configure the spectrum analyzer using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: Center frequency of the vector signal generator + *tone offset* from step 3.
 - Reference level: Configured reference level from transfer function A in the *Accuracy Transfer Definitions* table.
 - Span: 250 kHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 4 kHz
 - Averaging mode: RMS
 - Number of averages: 10
14. Use the spectrum analyzer to acquire the signal.

15. Measure the peak output power present in the signal from step 14. Store this value as *splitter output 2 power*.
16. Configure the power sensor to correct for the frequency from step 12 using the power sensor frequency correction function.
17. Use the power sensor to measure the output power. Store this value as *splitter output 1 power*.
18. Repeat steps 12 through 17 for the remaining frequencies. For characterization used in a verification procedure, use the test points from the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section. For characterization used in an adjustment procedure, use 65 MHz to 6 GHz in 5 MHz steps for the test points.
19. Repeat steps 12 through 18 for transfer function B from the [Accuracy Transfer Definitions](#) table.
20. Calculate a table of splitter loss values for each frequency of each transfer function using the following equation:

$$\text{splitter loss} = \text{splitter output 1 power} - \text{splitter input power}$$
 Store the results in a *Splitter Loss* table.
21. Calculate the accuracy transfer result for each frequency of each transfer function using the following equation:

$$\text{accuracy transfer result} = \text{splitter output 1} - \text{splitter output 2}$$
 Store the results in an *RF Output Transfer Result* table.

Self-Calibrating the PXIe-5646

Allow a 30-minute warm-up time before you begin self-calibration.



Note The warm-up time begins after the PXI Express chassis is powered on and the operating system completely loads.

The PXIe-5646 includes precise internal circuits and references used during self-calibration to adjust for any errors caused by short-term fluctuations in the environment. You must call the self-calibration function to validate the specifications in the [Verification](#) section.

1. Perform self-calibration using the installed self-calibration executable or the niVST Self-Calibrate VI. Open one of the following self-calibration tools:
 - Navigate to **Start»All Programs»National Instruments»Vector Signal Transceivers»VST Self-Calibrate** or <Program Files>\National Instruments\NI VST\Self Calibration to launch the self-calibration executable.
 - Add the niVST Self-Calibrate VI, located on the **Functions»Instrument I/O»Instrument Drivers»NI VST Calibration** palette, to a block diagram.
2. Run the self-calibration executable or VI.

As-Found and As-Left Limits

The as-found limits are the published specifications for the PXIe-5646. NI uses these limits to determine whether the PXIe-5646 meets the specifications when it is received for calibration. Use the as-found limits during initial verification.

The as-left calibration limits are equal to the published NI specifications for the PXIe-5646, less guard bands for measurement uncertainty, temperature drift, and drift over time. NI uses these limits to reduce the probability that the instrument will be outside the published specification limits at the end of the calibration cycle. Use the as-left limits when performing verification after adjustment.

Verification

The performance verification procedures assume that adequate traceable uncertainties are available for the calibration references.

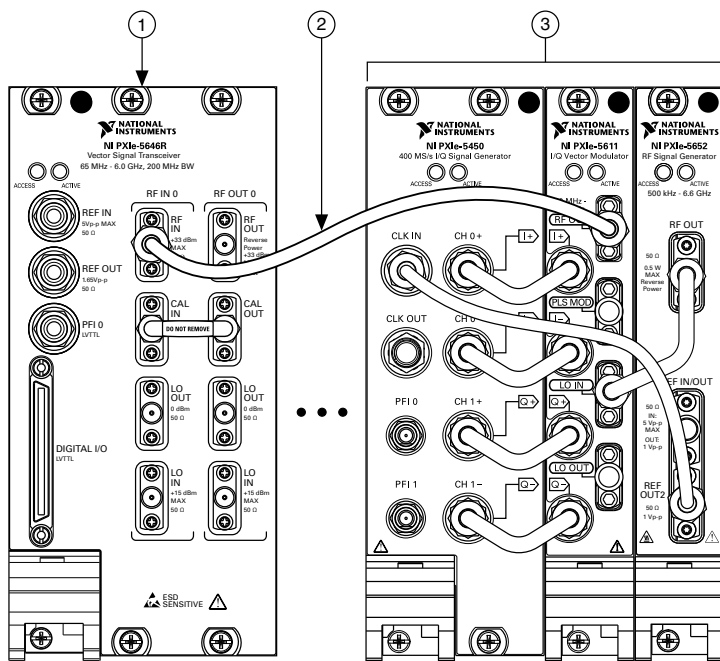
Verifying Internal Frequency Reference

This procedure verifies the frequency accuracy of the PXIe-5646 onboard frequency reference using a vector signal generator.

1. Connect the vector signal generator RF OUT front panel connector to the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 6. Internal Frequency Reference Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Vector Signal Generator
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the vector signal generator REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a 2.22 GHz signal with a 0 dBm average output power, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 2.22 GHz
 - Output power: 0 dBm
 - Reference Clock source: External
 4. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire and measure the signal generated in step 3, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 2.22 GHz
 - Reference level: +10 dBm
 - Resolution bandwidth: 100 Hz
 - Span: 100 kHz
 - FFT window: Hanning
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 20
 - Reference Clock source: Onboard

5. Measure the frequency of the peak acquired tone.
 6. Calculate the deviation using the following equation:
-

$$\Delta f = \left| \frac{f_{\text{measuredGHz}} - 2.2\text{GHz}}{2.2\text{GHz}} \right|$$

7. The result in step 6 should be less than the result of the following equation:

initial accuracy + aging + temperature stability

where

initial accuracy = $\pm 200 * 10^{-9}$

aging = $\pm 1 * 10^{-6} / \text{year} * \text{number of years since last adjustment}$

temperature stability = $\pm 1 * 10^{-6}$



Note You can determine number of years since last adjustment programmatically using the PXIe-5644/5645/5646 Instrument Design Libraries.

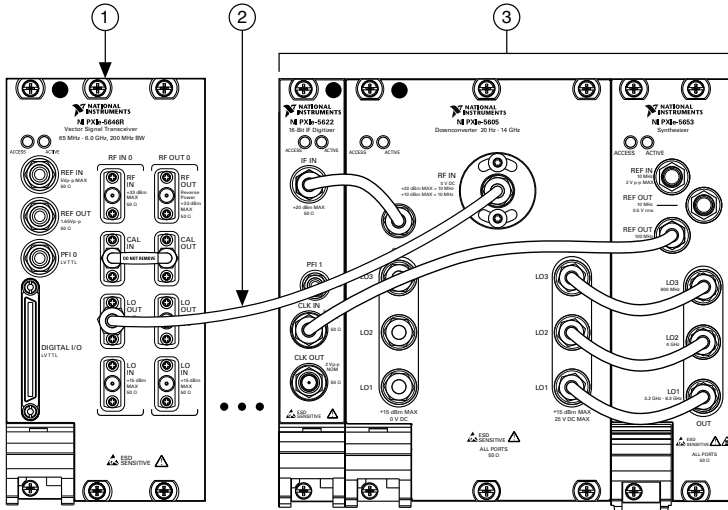
Verifying RF Input Spectral Purity

This procedure verifies the RF input spectral purity of the PXIe-5646.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 LO OUT (RF IN 0) front panel connector to the RF IN front panel connector of the spectrum analyzer.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 7. RF Input Spectral Purity Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Spectrum Analyzer
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the spectrum analyzer REF IN front panel connector.
 4. Configure the PXIe-5646 to export the LO using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 1 GHz
 - LO OUT: Enabled
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 5. Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a spectrum using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 1 GHz
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Span: 100 Hz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 10 Hz
 - Reference Clock source: External
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 20
 6. Measure the peak power at the center frequency.

The measured value is the power, in dBm, of the generated tone.

7. Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a spectrum using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 4 + 20 kHz
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Span: 100 Hz
 - Resolution bandwidth (RBW): 10 Hz
 - Reference Clock source: External
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 20
8. Measure the power at a 20 kHz offset. Normalize the result to 1 Hz bin width by subtracting $10 * \log(\text{RBW})$, where RBW is the setting specified in step 7.

The result of this step is in dBm/Hz.

9. Calculate the relative difference between the signal and noise using the following equation:

$$\text{SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz (dBc/Hz)} = \text{step 8 measurement (dBc/Hz)} - \text{step 6 measurement (dBm)}$$

The result of this step is in dBc/Hz.

10. Compare the results of step 9 to the specified limits in the following table.

Table 5. SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz Offset (Low Loop Bandwidth)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBc/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <3 GHz | -99 | -99 |
| 3 GHz to 4 GHz | -91 | -91 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -93 | -93 |

11. Repeat steps 4 through 10 for the following frequencies:
 - 1 GHz
 - 1.9 GHz
 - 2.4 GHz
 - 3 GHz
 - 4.4 GHz
 - 5.8 GHz
12. Repeat steps 4 through 11 for the configurations specified in the following tables.

Table 6. SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz Offset (Medium-Loop Bandwidth)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBc/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <3 GHz | -99 | -99 |
| 3 GHz to 4 GHz | -93 | -93 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -93 | -93 |

Table 7. SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz Offset (High-Loop Bandwidth)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBc/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <3 GHz | -94 | -94 |
| 3 GHz to 4 GHz | -91 | -91 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -87 | -87 |

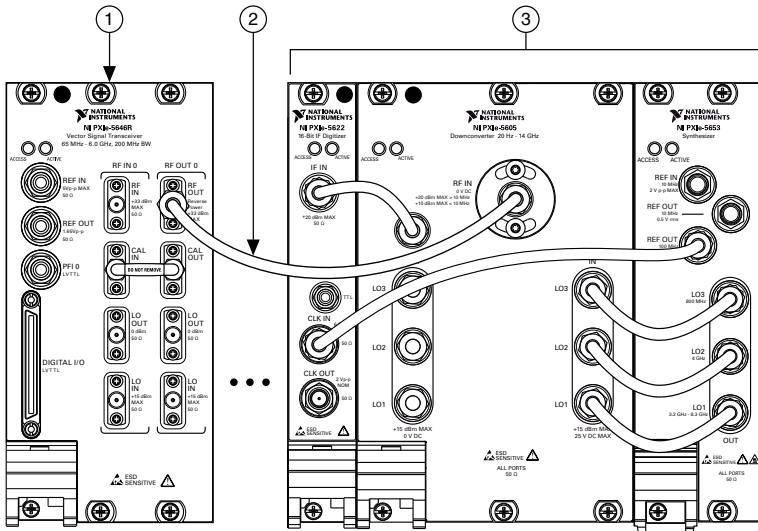
Verifying RF Output Spectral Purity

This procedure verifies the RF output spectral purity of the PXIe-5646.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT (RF IN 0) front panel connector to the RF IN front panel connector of the spectrum analyzer.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 8. RF Output Spectral Purity Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Spectrum Analyzer
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the spectrum analyzer REF IN front panel connector.
 4. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate an offset CW tone using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 1 GHz
 - Output power: 0 dBm

- Tone offset: 3.75 MHz
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
 - Loop bandwidth: Low
 - Fractional mode: Enabled
 - Step size: 200 kHz
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
5. Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a spectrum using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 1 GHz + 3.75 MHz
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Span: 100 Hz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 10 Hz
 - Reference Clock source: External
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 20
 6. Measure the peak power at the center frequency.

The measured power should match the power, in dBm, of the generated tone.

7. Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a spectrum using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 5 + 20 kHz
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Span: 100 Hz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 10 Hz
 - Reference Clock source: External
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 20
8. Measure the power at a 20 kHz offset. Normalize the result to 1 Hz bin width by subtracting $10 * \log(\text{RBW})$, where RBW is the setting specified in step 7.

The result of this step is in dBm/Hz.

9. Calculate the relative difference between the signal and noise using the following equation:

$$\text{SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz (dBm/Hz)} = \text{step 8 measurement (dBm/Hz)} - \text{step 6 measurement (dBm)}$$

The result of this step is in dBm/Hz.

10. Compare the results of step 9 to the specified limits in the following table.

Table 8. SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz Offset (Low-Loop Bandwidth)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBc/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <3 GHz | -99 | -99 |
| 3 GHz to 4 GHz | -91 | -91 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -93 | -93 |

11. Repeat steps 4 through 10 for the following frequencies:
 - 1 GHz
 - 1.9 GHz
 - 2.4 GHz
 - 3 GHz
 - 4.4 GHz
 - 5.8 GHz
12. Repeat steps 4 through 11 for the configurations specified in the following tables.

Table 9. SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz Offset (Medium-Loop Bandwidth)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBc/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <3 GHz | -99 | -99 |
| 3 GHz to 4 GHz | -93 | -93 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -93 | -93 |

Table 10. SSB Phase Noise at 20 kHz Offset (High-Loop Bandwidth)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBc/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <3 GHz | -94 | -94 |
| 3 GHz to 4 GHz | -91 | -91 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -87 | -87 |

Verifying Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy

This procedure verifies the absolute amplitude accuracy of the PXIe-5646 input channels.

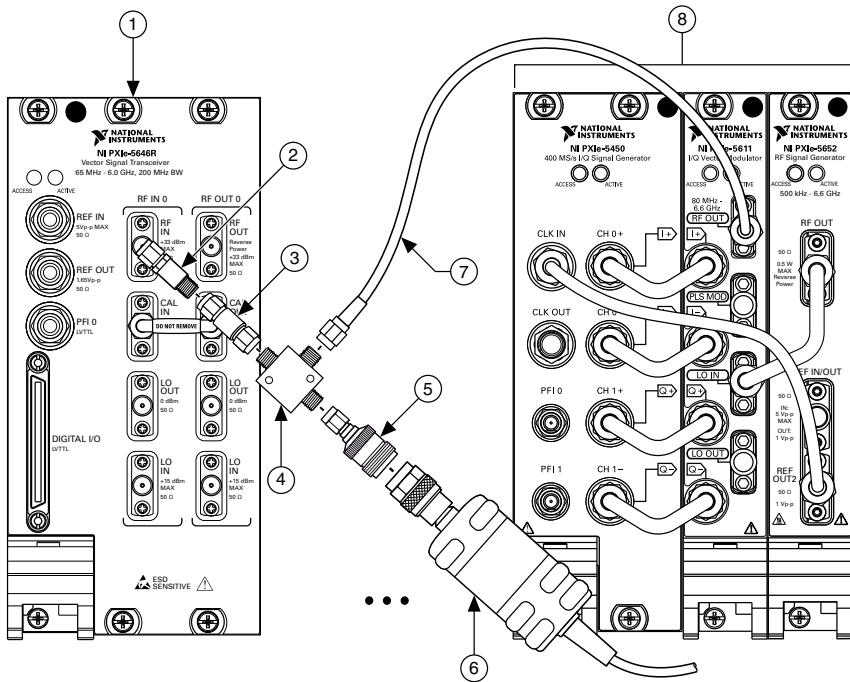
This procedure requires the same attenuator and splitter positioning as used during the [Test System Characterization](#) procedures, as well as the data collected in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section. You must characterize the power splitter balance before running this procedure. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section.

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

1. Connect the vector signal generator RF OUT front panel connector to the input terminal of the power splitter using a SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
2. Connect splitter output 1 directly to the power sensor input connector using the SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.
3. Connect splitter output 2 to the SMA (f) end of the 6 dB attenuator using a 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) adapter.
4. Connect the remaining 6 dB attenuator SMA (m) connector directly to the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 9. Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
2. 6 dB Attenuator
3. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter
4. Power Splitter
5. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter
6. Power Sensor
7. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
8. Vector Signal Generator

5. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a signal at 500 MHz, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 500 MHz
 - Reference level: 30 dBm



Note Steps 6 through 10 create correction factors that transfer the accuracy of the power sensor to the vector signal generator. Record the results from these steps in a lookup table called *Accuracy Transfer Results*.

6. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a 76.25 MHz tone, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 76.25 MHz
 - Tone offset: 3.75 MHz
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
 - Output power: *Configured output power* from transfer row A in the following table.

Table 11. RF Input Accuracy Transfers

| Transfer | Supported Reference Levels (dBm) | Configured Output Power (dBm) | Start Frequency (MHz) | Stop Frequency (MHz) | Frequency Step Size (MHz) |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| A | 30 to -10 | 0 | 76.25 | 101.25 | 5 |
| | | | 146.25 | 946.25 | 50 |
| | | | 996.25 | 5,996.25 | 200 |
| B | <-10 to -30 | -20 | 76.25 | 101.25 | 5 |
| | | | 146.25 | 946.25 | 50 |
| | | | 996.25 | 5,996.25 | 200 |

7. Configure the power sensor to correct for the (*center frequency + tone offset*) from step 6 using the power sensor frequency correction function.
8. Measure the power of the signal present at the reference output of the power splitter using the power sensor.

Record the results from this step as *accuracy transfer result*.

9. Repeat steps 6 through 8 for the remaining frequencies listed in transfer row A in the previous table.
10. Repeat steps 6 through 9 for transfer row B in the previous table. Create a table and include a value for each test point, *transfer* versus *frequency*.
11. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a signal at 80 MHz, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 80 MHz
 - Reference level: 30 dBm
 - Span: 10 MHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 10
 - FFT window: Flat Top
12. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a signal at the *center frequency* specified in step 11 with a 3.75 MHz signal offset, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 11
 - Tone offset: 3.75 MHz
 - Power level: *Configured output power* from the transfer row in the previous table that supports the *reference level* from step 11.
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
 - Digital gain: (*reference level* from step 11 - *power level* from step 12) or 0 dB, whichever is less.
13. Calculate the *transfer input power* using the following equation:

transfer input power = *accuracy transfer result* + *digital gain* from step 12



Note Determine the *accuracy transfer result* by interpolating between the data points in the *Accuracy Transfer Results* table.

- Calculate the *corrected input power* using the following equation:

corrected input power = *transferred input power* + *splitter balance*



Note Determine the *splitter balance* by interpolating between data points derived using test points in the *Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures* table in the *Characterizing Power Splitter Balance* section.

- Configure the PXIe-5646 using the settings from step 11, perform an acquisition, and measure the tone present at the offset of 3.75 MHz.
- Calculate the *absolute amplitude accuracy* using the following equation:
$$\text{absolute amplitude accuracy} = \text{PXIe-5646 input power} - \text{corrected input power}$$
- Repeat steps 11 through 16 for the remaining frequencies in the previous table.
- Repeat steps 11 through 17 for the remaining reference levels from 30 dBm to -30 dBm in 10 dB increments.
- Compare the *absolute amplitude accuracy* values measured to the verification test limits in the following table.

Table 12. Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy Verification Test Limits

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dB) | As-Left Limit (dB) |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 65 MHz to <375 MHz | ±0.70 | ±0.55 |
| 375 MHz to <2 GHz | ±0.65 | ±0.45 |
| 2 GHz to <4 GHz | ±0.70 | ±0.40 |
| 4 GHz to 6 GHz | ±0.90 | ±0.55 |

Verifying Input Frequency Response

This procedure verifies the frequency response of the PXIe-5646 input channels.

This procedure requires the same attenuator and splitter positioning as used during the *Test System Characterization* procedures, as well as the data collected in the *Characterizing Power Splitter Balance* section. You must characterize the power splitter balance before running this procedure. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points in the *Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures* table in the *Characterizing Power Splitter Balance* section.

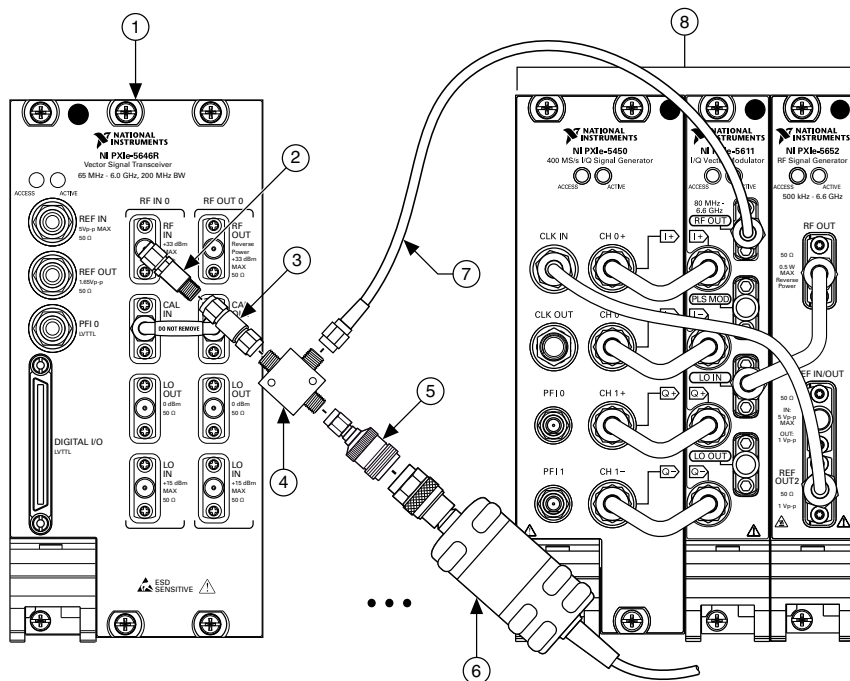
You must zero the power sensor as described in the *Zeroing the Power Sensor* section prior to starting this procedure.


- Connect the vector signal generator RF OUT front panel connector to the input terminal of the power splitter using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
- Connect splitter output 1 directly to the power sensor input connector using the SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.

3. Connect splitter output 2 to the SMA (f) end of the 6 dB attenuator using a 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) adapter.
4. Connect the remaining 6 dB attenuator SMA (m) connector directly to the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 10. Input Frequency Response Verification Cabling Diagram



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. PXIe-5646 | 5. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter |
| 2. 6 dB Attenuator | 6. Power Sensor |
| 3. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter | 7. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable |
| 4. Power Splitter | 8. Vector Signal Generator |
5. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a signal using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 500 MHz
 - Reference level: 30 dBm
-  **Note** Steps 6 through 11 create correction factors that transfer the accuracy of the power sensor to the vector signal generator. Record the results from these steps in a lookup table called *Accuracy Transfer Results*.
6. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a 300 MHz tone, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 300 MHz
 - Tone offset: $-(\text{test bandwidth}/2)$ MHz, where *test bandwidth* is the value specified in the *Input Frequency Response Test Points* table.

- I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
- Output power: Configured output power from the transfer A row in the following table.

Table 13. Frequency Response Accuracy Transfers

| Transfer | Supported Reference Levels (dBm) | Configured Output Power (dBm) |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A | 30 to -10 | 0 |
| B | -10 to -30 | -20 |

- Configure the power sensor to correct for the value of (*center frequency + tone offset*) from step 6 using the power sensor frequency correction function.
- Measure the power of the signal present at splitter output 1 of the power splitter using the power sensor.
- Repeat steps 6 through 8 by sweeping the vector signal generator tone offset from $-(\text{test bandwidth}/2)$ to $+(\text{test bandwidth}/2)$ in 10 MHz steps, where *test bandwidth* is the value specified in the following table.

Table 14. Input Frequency Response Test Points

| Test Bandwidth (MHz) | Test Points (MHz) | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 40 | 150 | | | | |
| 200 | 450 | 550 | 600 | 650 | 800 |
| | 950 | 1,000 | 1,050 | 1,200 | 1,550 |
| | 1,600 | 1,650 | 2,000 | 2,650 | 2,700 |
| | 2,750 | 3,000 | 3,800 | 3,950 | 4,000 |
| | 4,050 | 4,500 | 4,950 | 5,000 | 5,050 |
| | 5,500 | 5,950 | | | |

- Repeat steps 6 through 9 for the remaining frequencies listed in the previous table.
- Repeat steps 6 through 10 for transfer B in the *Frequency Response Accuracy Transfers* table.
- Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a signal at 300 MHz, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 150 MHz
 - Reference level: 30 dBm
 - Span: *Test bandwidth* from the *Input Frequency Response Test Points* table
 - Resolution bandwidth: 10 kHz
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 10
 - FFT window: Flat Top

13. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a signal at the *center frequency* specified in step 12 - (*test bandwidth*/2) MHz, where *test bandwidth* is the value specified in the previous table, using the following settings:
- Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 12
 - Tone offset: -(*test bandwidth*/2) MHz
 - Power level: *Configured output power* from the transfer row in the *Accuracy Transfer Definitions* table from the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section that supports the *reference level* from step 12.
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
 - Digital gain: (*reference level* from step 10 - *power level* from step 13 or 0 dB, whichever is less).

14. Calculate the *transfer input power* using the following equation:

transfer input power = *accuracy transfer result* + *digital gain* from step 13



Note Find the *accuracy transfer result* by interpolating between the data points in the *Accuracy Transfer Results* table.

15. Calculate the *corrected input power* using the following equation:

corrected input power = *transferred input power* + *splitter balance*



Note Determine the *splitter balance* by interpolating between data points derived using test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section.

16. Configure the PXIe-5646 using the settings from step 12, perform an acquisition, and measure the tone present at the (*center frequency* + *tone offset*) from step 13.
17. Calculate the *absolute amplitude accuracy* using the following equation:
- absolute amplitude accuracy* = PXIe-5646 *input power* - *corrected input power*
18. Repeat steps 13 through 17 by sweeping the vector signal generator tone offset from -(*test bandwidth*/2) to +(*test bandwidth*/2) in 10 MHz steps, where *test bandwidth* is the value specified in the *Input Frequency Response Test Points* table.
19. Determine the positive and negative frequency response results for the center frequency from step 12 by completing the following steps.
- a) Subtract the median *absolute power level accuracy* from the maximum *absolute power level accuracy* to determine the positive (+) *frequency response*.
 - b) Subtract the minimum *absolute power level accuracy* from the median *absolute power level accuracy* to determine the negative (-) *frequency response*.



Note After determining frequency response results for the 200 MHz test bandwidth, repeat step 19 using only absolute power level accuracy measurements from -80 MHz to +80 MHz to determine the positive and negative frequency response results for 80 MHz equalized bandwidth.

20. Repeat steps 12 through 19 for the remaining frequencies in the *Input Frequency Response Test Points* table.
21. Repeat steps 12 through 20 for the remaining reference levels between 0 dBm and -30 dBm in 10 dB steps.

22. Compare the \pm *frequency response* values measured to the verification test limits in the following table.

Table 15. Input Frequency Response Test Limits

| Frequency | Equalized Bandwidth (MHz) | As-Found Limit (dB) | As-Left Limit (dB) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| >109 MHz to <200 MHz | 40 | ± 0.5 | ± 0.5 |
| 200 MHz to 6 GHz | 80 | ± 0.5 | ± 0.5 |
| 200 MHz to 6 GHz | 200 | ± 1.1 | ± 1.1 |

Verifying Input Average Noise Density

This procedure verifies the average noise level of the PXIe-5646.

1. Connect a 50 Ω terminator to the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector.
2. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a signal at 100 MHz center frequency, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 100 MHz
 - Reference level: -50 dBm
 - Span: 1 MHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 50
 - FFT window: Flat Top
3. Read the power spectral density from the PXIe-5646.
4. Convert the sorted spectrum magnitude values from decibel milliwatts (dBm) to watts (W), calculate the mean, and convert the result back to dBm. The result is the *average noise* based on the configuration in step 2. Convert *average noise* to *average noise density* by normalizing to 1 Hz using the following equation:

$$\text{average noise density} = \text{average noise} - 10 * \log(\text{resolution bandwidth from step 2})$$
 Record the result.
5. Repeat steps 2 through 4 for the remaining frequencies from 100 MHz to 6 GHz in 590 MHz steps.
6. Change the reference level to -10 dBm and repeat steps 2 through 5.
7. Compare the PXIe-5646 *average noise density* to the verification test limits listed in the following tables.

Table 16. Average Noise Density Test Limits (-50 dBm Reference Level)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBm/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBm/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 65 MHz to 4 GHz | -159 | -159 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -156 | -156 |

Table 17. Average Noise Density Test Limits (-10 dBm Reference Level)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBm/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBm/Hz) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 65 MHz to 4 GHz | -145 | -145 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -144 | -144 |

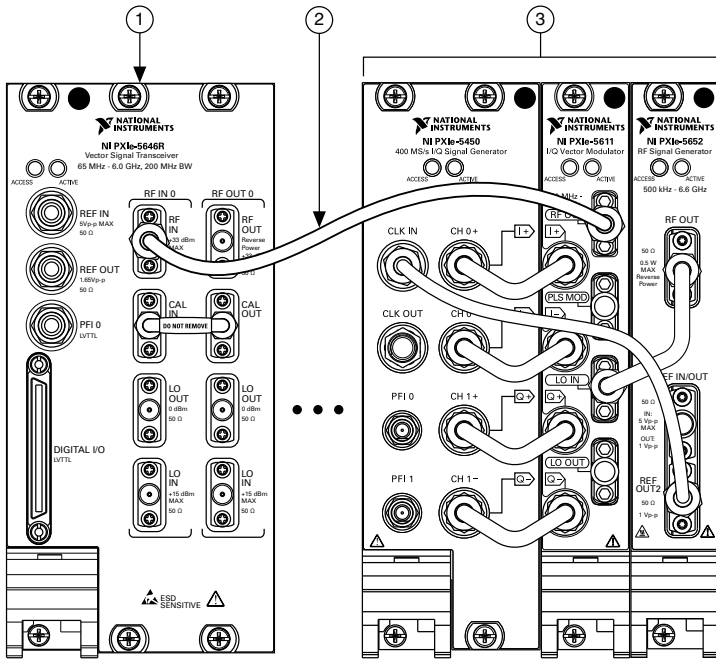
Verifying Input Nonharmonic Spurs

This procedure verifies the nonharmonic spurs in the presence of an external signal.

1. Connect the vector signal generator RF OUT connector to the RF IN front panel connector of the PXIe-5646.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 11. Input Nonharmonic Spurs Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Vector Signal Generator
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the vector signal generator REF IN front panel connector.
 4. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire an 80 MHz-wide signal, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 144.2 MHz
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Span: 80 MHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 10
 - FFT window: Flat Top
 5. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a single -1 dBm tone at the *center frequency* specified in step 4.



Note The following steps provide a general method for validating the nonharmonic spurs. For an improved measurement, use a peak-detect method to differentiate spurious content from noise.

6. Acquire an 80 MHz-wide spectrum using the PXIe-5646.
7. Measure the peak power within 100 kHz to 1 MHz offset of the tone on either side of the carrier frequency from the data acquired in step 6.

Record the maximum value for comparison to the >100 kHz offset limits.

8. Measure the peak power at a >1 MHz offset of the tone on either side of the carrier frequency from the data acquired in step 6.

Record the maximum value for comparison to the >1,000 kHz offset limits.

9. Repeat steps 4 through 8 for the remaining test points listed in the following table.

Table 18. Input Nonharmonic Spurs Test Points

| Frequency (MHz) | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 144.2 | 264.2 | 504.2 | 1,008.2 | 2,016.2 |
| 2,502.2 | 3,024.2 | 4,008.2 | 5,016.2 | — |

10. Compare the results from steps 7 through 9 to the test limits in the following table.

Table 19. Input Nonharmonic Spurs Test Limits

| Frequency | Offset (kHz) | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 65 MHz to 3 GHz | >100 | -60 | -60 |
| | >1,000 | -75 | -75 |
| >3 GHz to 6 GHz | >100 | -55 | -55 |
| | >1,000 | -70 | -70 |

Verifying Output Power Level Accuracy

This procedure verifies the power level accuracy of the PXIe-5646 RF output channel.

This procedure requires the test setup and data collected in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. You must characterize the power splitter loss before running this procedure.

Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section.

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

This procedure references the following tables you created when you characterized the power splitter loss:

- *Splitter Loss*
- *RF Output Accuracy Transfer Result*

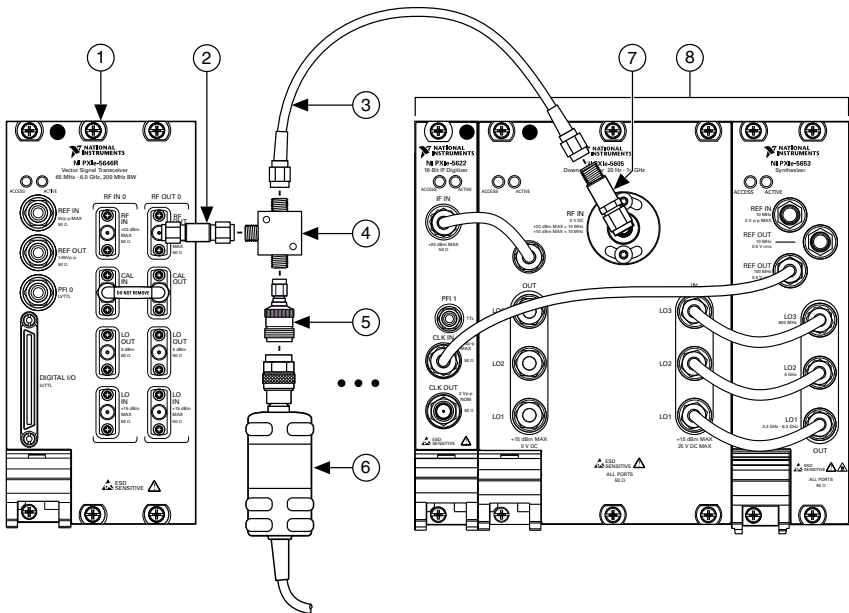


Note If you use the PXIe-5665, as recommended, for the spectrum analyzer, disable the preamplifier and preselector options and set the FFT window type to Flat Top.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the input terminal of the power splitter using a 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) adapter.
2. Connect splitter output 1 directly to the power sensor using the SMA (m)-to-N(f) adapter.
3. Connect the remaining power splitter output to one end of the 6 dB attenuator using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
4. Connect the other port of the 6 dB attenuator directly to the spectrum analyzer RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 12. Output Power Level Accuracy Verification Cabling Diagram



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. PXIe-5646 | 5. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter |
| 2. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter | 6. Power Sensor |
| 3. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable | 7. 6 dB Attenuator |
| 4. Power Splitter | 8. Spectrum Analyzer |

5. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate a tone using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 76.25 MHz
 - Output power: 10 dBm
 - Tone offset: 3.75 MHz
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
6. Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a signal at the *center frequency* specified in step 5 using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: (*Center frequency + tone offset*) from step 5
 - Reference level: *Configured reference level* from the transfer row in the *RF Output Accuracy Transfer Result* table from the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section that supports the *output power* from step 5.
 - Span: *Span* from the following table
 - Resolution bandwidth: *RBW* from the following table
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: *Number of averages* from the following table

Table 20. Advanced Spectrum Analyzer Settings

| Supported Output Power Levels | Span (kHz) | RBW | Number of Averages |
|---|------------|--------|--------------------|
| $x > -70 \text{ dBm}$ | 250 | 4 kHz | 10 |
| $-70 \text{ dBm} \geq x > -100 \text{ dBm}$ | 250 | 900 Hz | 20 |
| $x \leq -100 \text{ dBm}$ | 250 | 900 Hz | 100 |

7. Acquire the signal with the spectrum analyzer and measure the tone power located at the value of (*center frequency + tone offset*) from step 5. This value is the *measured tone power*.
8. Calculate the *transferred output power* using the following equation:

$$\text{transferred output power} = \text{accuracy transfer result} + \text{measured tone power}$$



Note Determine the *accuracy transfer result* by interpolating between the data points in the *RF Output Transfer Result* table you created in step 21 of the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section.

9. Calculate the *corrected output power* using the following equation:

$$\text{corrected output power} = \text{transferred output power} + \text{splitter loss}$$



Note Determine the *splitter loss* by interpolating between the data points in the *Splitter Loss* table you created in step 20 of the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section. Choose the appropriate value based on the transfer function used from the [Accuracy Transfer Definitions](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section.

10. Calculate the *absolute power level accuracy* using the following equation:

$$\text{absolute power level accuracy} = \text{device output power} - \text{corrected output power}$$

Where *device output power* is the configured output power of the PXIe-5646 RF output path.

11. Repeat steps 5 through 10 for the remaining frequencies listed in the following table.

Table 21. Output Power Level Accuracy Test Points

| Start Frequency (MHz) | Stop Frequency (MHz) | Frequency Step Size (MHz) |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 76.25 | 101.25 | 5 |
| 125.25 | 225.25 | 20 |
| 246.25 | 946.25 | 50 |
| 996.25 | 5,996.25 | 200 |

12. Repeat steps 5 through 11 for the remaining power levels between 10 dBm and -70 dBm in 10 dB steps.

13. Compare the *absolute power level accuracy* values measured to the test limits in the following table.

Table 22. Output Power Level Accuracy Test Limits

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dB) | As-Left Limit (dB) |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 65 MHz to <109 MHz | ±0.70 | ±0.40 |
| 109 MHz to <270 MHz | ±0.75 | ±0.45 |
| 270 MHz to <375 MHz | ±0.70 | ±0.40 |
| 375 MHz to <2 GHz | ±0.75 | ±0.40 |
| 2 GHz to <4 GHz | ±0.75 | ±0.45 |
| 4 GHz to 6 GHz | ±1.00 | ±0.55 |



Note The as-left limits are not listed in the published specifications for the PXIe-5646. These limits are based on published *PXIe-5646 Specifications*, less guard bands for measurement uncertainty, temperature drift, and drift over time.

Verifying Output Frequency Response

This procedure verifies the frequency response of the PXIe-5646 outputs.

This procedure requires the test setup and data collected in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. You must characterize the power splitter loss before running this procedure.

Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section.

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

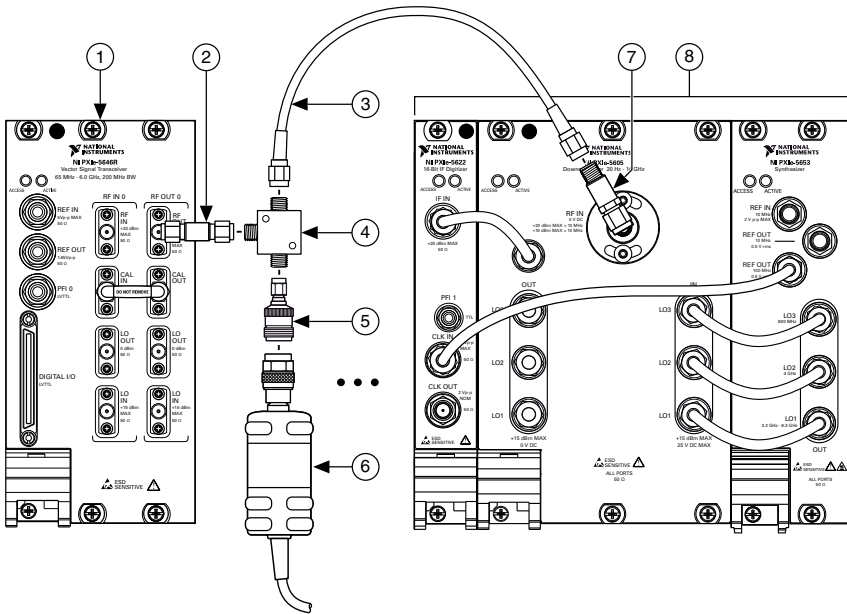


Note If you use the PXIe-5665, as recommended, for the spectrum analyzer, disable the preamplifier and preselector options and set the FFT window type to Flat Top.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the input terminal of the power splitter using a 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) adapter.
2. Connect splitter output 1 directly to the power sensor using the SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.
3. Connect the remaining power splitter output to one end of the 6 dB attenuator using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
4. Connect the other port of the 6 dB attenuator directly to the spectrum analyzer RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 13. Output Frequency Response Verification Cabling Diagram



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. PXIe-5646 | 5. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter |
| 2. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter | 6. Power Sensor |
| 3. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable | 7. 6 dB Attenuator |
| 4. Power Splitter | 8. Spectrum Analyzer |
5. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate a signal at 300 MHz with a tone at $-(\text{test bandwidth}/2)$ MHz offset, where *test bandwidth* is the value specified in the following table, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 300 MHz
 - Tone offset: $-(\text{test bandwidth}/2)$ MHz

- I/Q rate: 250 MS/s
- Output power: 0 dBm

Table 23. Output Frequency Response Test Points

| Test Bandwidth (MHz) | Test Points (MHz) | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 40 | 150 | | | | |
| 200 | 450 | 550 | 600 | 650 | 800 |
| | 950 | 1,000 | 1,050 | 1,200 | 1,550 |
| | 1,600 | 1,650 | 2,000 | 2,650 | 2,700 |
| | 2,750 | 3,000 | 3,800 | 3,950 | 4,000 |
| | 4,050 | 4,500 | 4,950 | 5,000 | 5,050 |
| | 5,500 | 5,950 | | | |

- Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a signal at the tone frequency of step 5, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: (*Center frequency + tone offset*) from step 5, in MHz
 - Reference level: Configured reference level (dBm) from the transfer row in the *Accuracy Transfer Definitions* table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section that supports the *output power* from step 5.
 - Span: *Span* from the following table
 - Resolution bandwidth: *RBW* from the following table
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: *Number of averages* from the following table

Table 24. Advanced Spectrum Analyzer Settings

| Supported Output Power Levels | Span (kHz) | RBW | Number of Averages |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|--------------------|
| $x > -70$ dBm | 250 | 4 kHz | 10 |
| -70 dBm $\geq x > -100$ dBm | 250 | 900 Hz | 20 |
| $x \leq -100$ dBm | 250 | 900 Hz | 100 |

- Acquire the signal with the spectrum analyzer and measure the tone power located at the value of (*center frequency + tone offset*) from step 5. This value is the *measured tone power*.
- Calculate the *transferred output power* using the following equation:

$$\text{transferred output power} = \text{accuracy transfer result} + \text{measured tone power}$$



Note Find the *accuracy transfer result* by interpolating between the data points in the *RF Output Transfer Result* table you created in step 21 of the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. Ensure you use the characterization

data derived from test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section.

9. Calculate the *corrected output power* using the following equation:

$$\text{corrected output power} = \text{transferred output power} + \text{splitter loss}$$



Note Find the *splitter loss* by interpolating between the data points in the *Splitter Loss* table you created in step 20 of the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points in the [Characterization Test Points for Verification Procedures](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section. Choose the appropriate value based on the transfer function used from the [Accuracy Transfer Definitions](#) table in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section.

10. Calculate the *absolute power level accuracy* using the following equation:

$$\text{absolute power level accuracy} = \text{device output power} - \text{corrected output power}$$

Where *device output power* is the configured output power of the PXIe-5646 RF output path.

11. Repeat steps 5 through 10 by sweeping the tone offset from $-(\text{test bandwidth}/2)$ to $+(\text{test bandwidth}/2)$ in 5 MHz steps, where *test bandwidth* is the value specified in the *Output Frequency Response Test Points* table.
12. Determine the positive and negative frequency response results for the *center frequency* from step 5 by completing the following steps.
 - a) positive (+) *frequency response* = maximum *absolute power level accuracy* - median *absolute power level accuracy*
 - b) negative (-) *frequency response* = median *absolute power level accuracy* - minimum *absolute power level accuracy*



Note After determining frequency response results for the 200 MHz test bandwidth, repeat step 12 using only absolute power level accuracy measurements from -80 MHz to +80 MHz to determine the positive and negative frequency response results for 80 MHz equalized bandwidth.

13. Repeat steps 5 through 12 for the remaining center frequencies listed in the *Output Frequency Response Test Points* table.
14. Repeat steps 5 through 13 for power levels 0 dBm to -30 dBm in 10 dB steps.
15. Compare the \pm *frequency response* values measured to the test limits in the following table.

Table 25. Output Frequency Response Test Limits

| Frequency | Equalized Bandwidth (MHz) | As-Found Limit (dB) | As-Left Limit (dB) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| >109 MHz to <200 MHz | 40 | ± 0.5 | ± 0.5 |
| 200 MHz to 6 GHz | 80 | ± 0.5 | ± 0.5 |
| 200 MHz to 6 GHz | 200 | ± 1.1 | ± 1.1 |

Verifying Output Noise Density

This procedure verifies the generated noise density of the PXIe-5646 outputs.

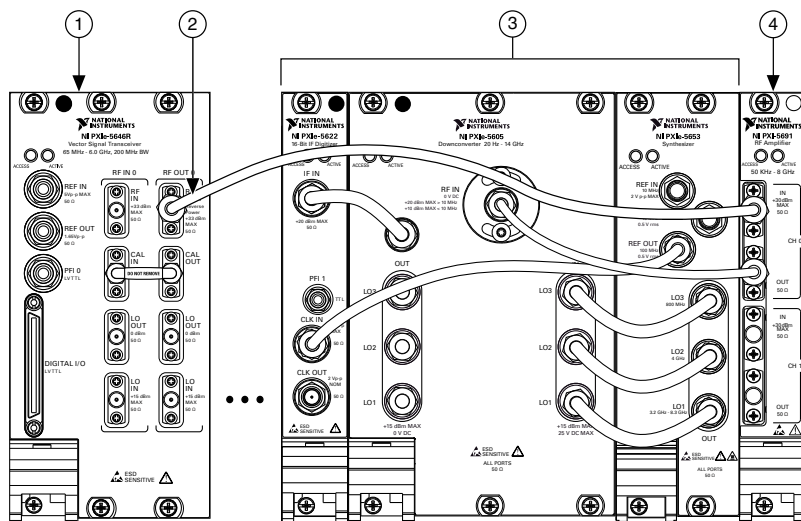


Note This measurement requires a measuring instrument with an average noise density better than -158 dBm/Hz. You may need an external preamplifier if your spectrum analyzer does not have an internal gain mode that can meet this requirement. If you are using an external preamplifier, begin with step 1, otherwise begin with step 3.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the input connector of the external preamplifier.
2. Connect the preamplifier output to the RF IN front panel connector of the spectrum analyzer.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 14. Output Noise Density Verification Cabling Diagram



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. PXIe-5646 | 3. Spectrum Analyzer |
| 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable | 4. Preamplifier |
3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 4. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the spectrum analyzer REF IN front panel connector.
 5. Generate a 1 MHz tone arbitrary waveform using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 1288 MHz
 - I/Q rate: 120 MS/s

- Tone offset frequency: 1 MHz
 - Tone full scale: -40 dBFS
 - Power level: 10 dBm
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
6. Measure the output noise floor 4 MHz offset from the generated tone using the spectrum analyzer and the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 5 + 5 MHz
 - Reference level: -10 dBm
 - Frequency span: 1 MHz
 - Number of averages: 200
 - Reference Clock source: External
 - Attenuation: 0 dB
 - Resolution bandwidth: 500 Hz
 7. Convert the sorted spectrum magnitude values from decibel milliwatts (dBm) to watts (W), calculate the mean, and convert the result to decibel milliwatts. This value is the *average noise*. Convert *average noise* to *average noise density* by normalizing to 1 Hz using the following equation:

$$\text{average noise density} = \text{average noise} - 10 * \log(\text{resolution bandwidth from step 6})$$
 Record the result.
 8. Repeat steps 5 through 7 for the remaining RF frequencies between 1288 MHz and 6 GHz in 589 MHz steps.
 9. Repeat steps 5 through 8 for the 0 dBm output power level for frequencies between 1059 MHz and 6 GHz in 549 MHz steps.
 10. Compare the results of this procedure to the specified limits in the following tables.

Table 26. Output Noise Density Test Limits (10 dBm Power Level)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBm/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBm/Hz) |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| >1 GHz to 2.5 GHz | -141 | -141 |
| >2.5 GHz to 3.5 GHz | -140 | -140 |
| >3.5 GHz to 5 GHz | -136 | -136 |
| >5 GHz to 6 GHz | -138 | -138 |

Table 27. Output Noise Density Test Limits (0 dBm Power Level)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBm/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBm/Hz) |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| >1 GHz to 2.5 GHz | -149 | -149 |
| >2.5 GHz to 3.5 GHz | -150 | -150 |

Table 27. Output Noise Density Test Limits (0 dBm Power Level) (Continued)

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBm/Hz) | As-Left Limit (dBm/Hz) |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| >3.5 GHz to 5 GHz | -144 | -144 |
| >5 GHz to 6 GHz | -147 | -147 |

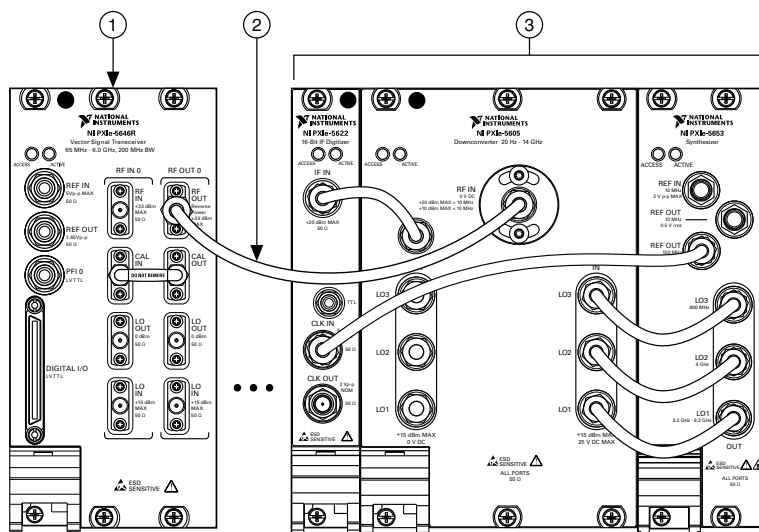
Verifying Output Second Harmonics

This procedure verifies the generated harmonics of the PXIe-5646 outputs.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the spectrum analyzer RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 15. Output Second Harmonics Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Spectrum Analyzer
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the spectrum analyzer REF IN front panel connector.
 4. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate a signal using the following settings:
 - Frequency: 100 MHz
 - Power level: 7 dBm
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s

- Tone offset: 1 MHz
 - Tone digital gain: -1 dBFS
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz
5. Use the spectrum analyzer to measure the fundamental tone power using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: (*frequency + tone offset*) from step 4
 - Reference level: +20 dBm
 - Frequency span: 100 kHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz
 6. Use the spectrum analyzer to measure the second harmonic power level using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: $2 * \text{center frequency}$ from step 5
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Frequency span: 100 kHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz
 7. Calculate the distortion level in dBc by subtracting the fundamental power from the second harmonic power.
 8. Repeat steps 4 through 7 for the remaining frequencies from 100 MHz to 6 GHz in 590 MHz steps.
 9. Compare the values calculated in step 7 and 8 to the corresponding limits in the following table.

Table 28. Second Harmonics Test Limits

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 65 MHz to 3.5 GHz | -27 | -27 |
| >3.5 GHz to 4.5 GHz | -26 | -26 |
| >4.5 GHz to 6 GHz | -28 | -28 |

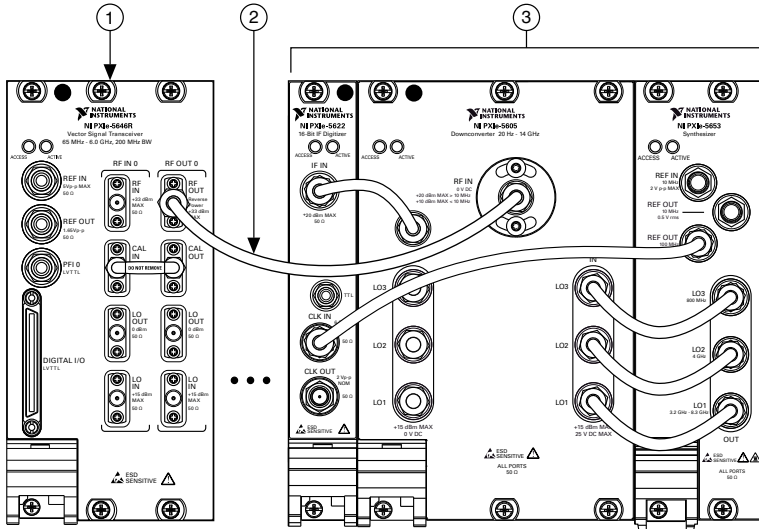
Verifying Output Nonharmonic Spurs

This procedure verifies the nonharmonic spurs generated by the PXIe-5646 RF output.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the RF IN connector of the spectrum analyzer.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 16. Output Nonharmonic Spurs Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Spectrum Analyzer
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the spectrum analyzer REF IN front panel connector.
 4. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate a CW tone using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 144.2 MHz
 - Power level: 0 dBm
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
 - Digital gain: -1 dB
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz
 5. Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a spectrum using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 4
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Span: 80 MHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 20
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz

6. Measure the peak power within 100 kHz to 1 MHz offset of the tone on either side of the carrier frequency from the data acquired in step 5.
Record the maximum value for comparison to the >100 kHz offset limits.
7. Measure the peak power at >1 MHz offset of the tone on either side of the carrier frequency from the data acquired in step 5. Record the maximum value.
Record the maximum value for comparison to the >1,000 kHz offset limits.
8. Repeat steps 4 through 7 for the remaining test points listed in the following table.

Table 29. Output Nonharmonics Test Points

| Frequency (MHz) | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 144.2 | 264.2 | 504.2 | 1,008.2 | 2,016.2 |
| 2,520.2 | 3,024.2 | 4,008.2 | 5,016.2 | |

9. Compare the results from steps 6 through 8 to the test limits in the following table.

Table 30. Output Nonharmonics Test Limits

| Frequency | Offset (kHz) | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 65 MHz to 3 GHz | >100 | -62 | -62 |
| | >1,000 | -75 | -75 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | >100 | -57 | -57 |
| | >1,000 | -70 | -70 |

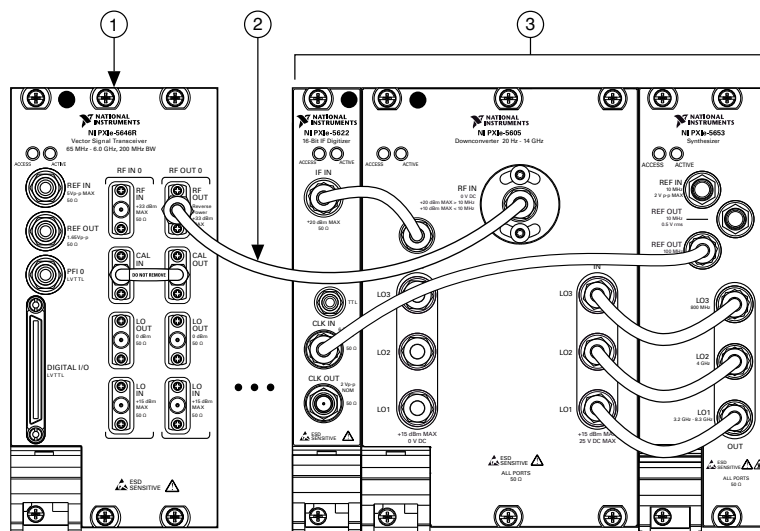
Verifying Third-Order Output Intermodulation (IMD3)

This procedure verifies the nonlinear performance of the output channel at several output levels.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the spectrum analyzer RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 17. Output IMD3 Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Spectrum Analyzer
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the spectrum analyzer REF IN front panel connector.
 4. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate two single sideband tones simultaneously at 2 MHz (f_1) and 2.5 MHz (f_2) offset from the carrier, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 100 MHz
 - Power level (dBm): 0 dBm
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Relative tone power (dB): -6 dB
 5. Use the spectrum analyzer to measure the generated signal using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: $(Center\ frequency + (f_1 + f_2)/2)$ from step 4
 - Reference level: *Power level* from step 4 + 10 dB
 - Span: 5 MHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 100 Hz
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 10

6. Measure and record the peak power of the following tones and distortion locations:
 - Center frequency + f_1 , record as *fundamental tone*₁
 - Center frequency + f_2 , record as *fundamental tone*₂
 - Center frequency + $2f_2 - f_1$, record as *IMD tone*₁
 - Center frequency + $2f_1 - f_2$, record as *IMD tone*₂
7. Calculate the output IMD using the following equation:
output IMD = maximum (*IMD tone*) - minimum (*fundamental tone*)
8. Repeat steps 4 through 7 for the remaining frequencies from 100 MHz to 6 GHz in 590 MHz steps.
9. Repeat steps 4 through 8 for the tone output power level -36 dBm.
10. Compare the output IMD values calculated in steps 7 through 9 to the corresponding limits in the following tables.

Table 31. IMD3 (dBc) -6 dBm Tones

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 65 MHz to 1.5 GHz | -50 | -50 |
| >1.5 GHz to 3.5 GHz | -54 | -54 |
| >3.5 GHz to 5 GHz | -50 | -50 |
| >5 GHz to 6 GHz | -47 | -47 |

Table 32. IMD3 (dBc) -36 dBm Tones

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 65 MHz to 200 MHz | -52 | -52 |
| >200 MHz to 6 GHz | -52 | -52 |

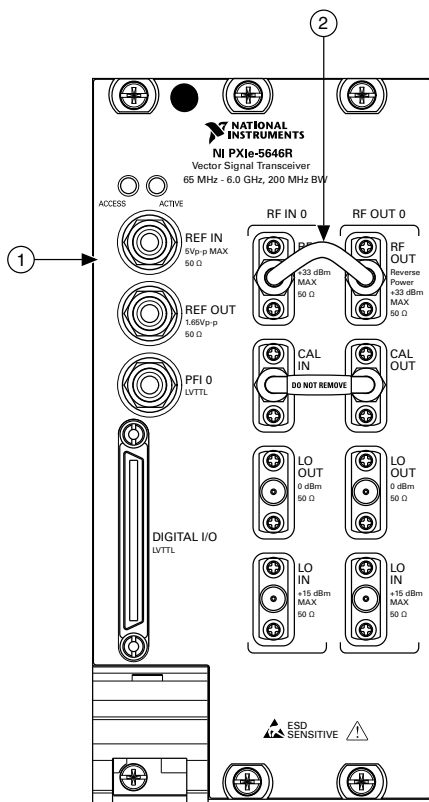
Verifying Residual LO Power and Residual Sideband Image

This procedure verifies the residual LO power and residual sideband image suppression of the PXIe-5646.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector to the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 18. Residual LO Power and Residual Sideband Image Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
2. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a spectrum at 80 MHz using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 80 MHz
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 - Span: 20 MHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz
 - Averaging type: RMS
 - Number of averages: 10
 - Window type: Flat Top
 3. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate a single sideband tone at an offset from the center frequency listed in step 2 using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 80 MHz + *LO offset*
 - LO offset: 200 kHz

- Power level: *Reference level* from step 2 or 0 dBm, whichever is less.
 - I/Q rate: 250 MS/s
 - Tone offset: $-(span \text{ from step 2})/2$
4. Acquire the signal using the PXIe-5646.
 5. Measure the following tones:
 - Generated tone power. Record as *fundamental tone*.
 - *Center frequency* from step 2. Record as *RF input residual LO*.
 - *Center frequency* from step 3. Record as *RF output residual LO*.
 - Image of tone relative to *center frequency* from step 2. Record as *RF input image*.
 - Image of tone relative to *center frequency* from step 3. Record as *RF output image*.
 6. Repeat steps 2 through 5 for the remaining tone offsets from $-span/2$ to $+span/2$ in 5 MHz steps, where *span* is the value listed in the following table.

Table 33. Measurement Span Over Center Frequency

| Frequency | Measurement Span | Partial Bandwidth | Residual LO Bandwidth |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ≤109 MHz | 20 MHz | — | 20 MHz |
| >109 MHz to <200 MHz | 80 MHz | — | 80 MHz |
| >200 MHz to 500 MHz | 200 MHz | — | 80 MHz |
| >500 MHz to 6 GHz | 200 MHz | 180 MHz | 80 MHz |



Note Omit the case where the tone offset is equal to zero.

7. Calculate the *RF input residual sideband image* using the following equation:

$$RF \text{ input partial residual sideband image} = \text{maximum } (RF \text{ input image}) - \text{fundamental tone}$$
8. For center frequencies with a partial bandwidth specified in the *Measurement Span Over Center Frequency* table, extract the RF Input image values from $-Partial \text{ Bandwidth}/2$ to $+Partial \text{ Bandwidth}/2$ and calculate the *partial bandwidth RF input residual sideband image* using the following equation:

$$RF \text{ input partial bandwidth residual sideband image} = \text{maximum } (RF \text{ input image}) - \text{fundamental tone}$$
9. Calculate the *RF output residual image suppression* using the following equation:

$$RF \text{ output residual sideband image} = \text{maximum } (RF \text{ output image}) - \text{fundamental tone}$$
10. For center frequencies with a partial bandwidth specified in the *Measurement Span Over Center Frequency* table, extract the RF Output image values from $-Partial \text{ Bandwidth}/2$ to $+Partial \text{ Bandwidth}/2$ and calculate *partial bandwidth RF output residual sideband image suppression* using the following equation:

$$\text{partial bandwidth } RF \text{ output residual sideband image} = \text{maximum } (RF \text{ output image}) - \text{fundamental tone}$$

11. For center frequencies with a partial bandwidth specified in the *Measurement Span Over Center Frequency* table, extract the LO residual bandwidth values from *-Residual LO Bandwidth/2* to *+Residual LO Bandwidth/2* and calculate the *RF input residual LO power* using the following equation:

$$\text{RF input residual LO power} = \text{maximum (RF input residual LO)} - \text{reference level from step 2}$$
12. For center frequencies with a partial bandwidth specified in the *Measurement Span over Center Frequency* table, extract the LO residual bandwidth values from *-Residual LO Bandwidth/2* to *+Residual LO Bandwidth/2* and calculate the *RF output residual LO power* using the following equation:

$$\text{RF output residual LO power} = \text{maximum (RF output residual LO)} - \text{reference level from step 2}$$
13. Repeat steps 2 through 10 for the remaining center frequencies from 80 MHz to 6 GHz in 296 MHz steps. Set *Measurement Span* to the value listed in the previous table for each center frequency.
14. Repeat steps 2 through 11 for the remaining reference levels from 0 dBm to -30 dBm in 10 dB steps.
15. Compare the results from this procedure to the limits listed in the following tables.

Table 34. Residual LO Power Test Limits

| Frequency | RF Input | | RF Output | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) |
| ≤109 MHz | -62 | -65 | — | — |
| >109 MHz to 200 MHz | -58 | -61 | -45 | -50 |
| >200 MHz to 2 GHz | -58 | -61 | -55 | -60 |
| >2 GHz to 3 GHz | -55 | -58 | -50 | -53 |
| >3 GHz to 5 GHz | -45 | -48 | -55 | -58 |
| >5 GHz to 6 GHz | -45 | -48 | -50 | -55 |



Note The as-left limits are not listed in the published specifications for the PXIe-5646. As-left limits are based on the published *PXIe-5646 Specifications*, less guard bands for measurement uncertainty, temperature drift, and drift over time.

Table 35. Residual Sideband Image Test Limits

| Frequency | Bandwidth | RF Input | | RF Output | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) | As-Found Limit (dBc) | As-Left Limit (dBc) |
| ≤109 MHz | 20 MHz | -40 | -50 | -40 | -42 |
| >109 MHz to 200 MHz | 80 MHz | -40 | -45 | -40 | -40 |
| >200 MHz to 500 MHz | 200 MHz | -40 | -45 | -45 | -50 |
| >500 MHz to 1 GHz | ≤180 MHz | -62 | -67 | -60 | -63 |
| | >180 MHz to 200 MHz | -60 | -63 | -57 | -60 |
| >1 GHz to 2 GHz | ≤180 MHz | -62 | -67 | -60 | -63 |
| | >180 MHz to 200 MHz | -60 | -63 | -60 | -63 |
| >2 GHz to 3 GHz | ≤180 MHz | -62 | -67 | -50 | -55 |
| | >180 MHz to 200 MHz | -60 | -63 | -50 | -55 |
| >3 GHz to 4 GHz | ≤180 MHz | -60 | -65 | -50 | -55 |
| | >180 MHz to 200 MHz | -59 | -62 | -50 | -55 |
| >4 GHz to 5 GHz | ≤180 MHz | -60 | -65 | -50 | -55 |
| | >180 MHz to 200 MHz | -59 | -62 | -50 | -55 |
| >5 GHz to 6 GHz | ≤180 MHz | -60 | -65 | -50 | -55 |
| | >180 MHz to 200 MHz | -59 | -62 | -50 | -55 |

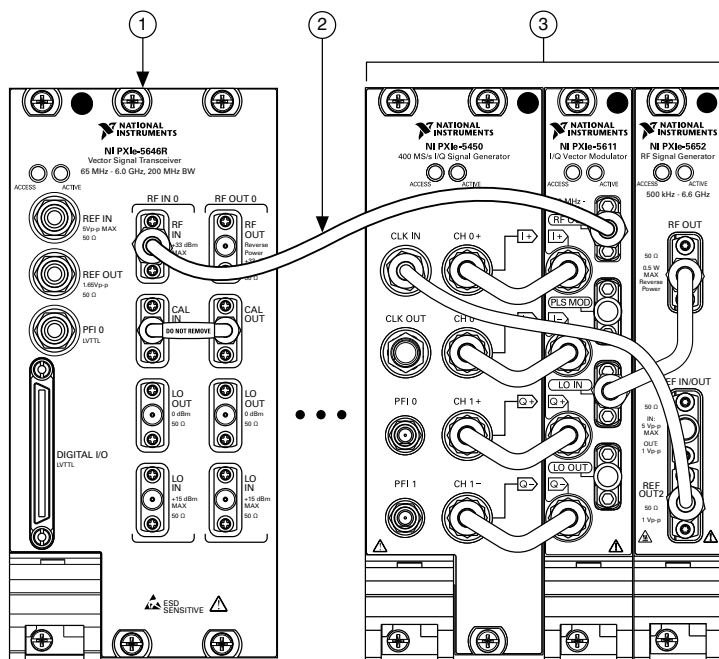
Verifying RF Input EVM (Functional Test)

This procedure verifies the demodulation performance of the PXIe-5646.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector to the RF OUT front panel connector of the vector signal generator using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 19. RF Input EVM Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Vector Signal Generator
2. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a complex modulated signal at 400 MHz using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 400 MHz
 - Reference level: -10 dBm
 - I/Q rate: 120 MS/s
 - Record length: 300 μ s
 3. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a complex modulated signal at the *center frequency* specified in step 2 using the following settings:
 - Power level: -10 dBm
 - I/Q rate: 120 MS/s
 4. Configure the modulated waveform signal with the Modulation Toolkit using the following settings:
 - QAM: 64
 - Symbol rate: 16 MSymbols/s
 - Samples per symbol: 4
 - Pulse shape filtering: Root-raised-cosine, 0.25 alpha
 - PN sequence order: 14

5. Download the waveform from step 4 to the vector signal generator and generate the modulated signal.
6. Acquire the signal with the PXIe-5646 and demodulate it with the Modulation Toolkit using the settings from step 4.
7. Measure and record the RMS EVM in dB.
8. Repeat steps 2 through 7 for frequencies from 400 MHz to 6 GHz in 200 MHz steps.
9. Compare the results from this procedure to the specified limits:
 - As-found: -40 dB
 - As-left: -40 dB

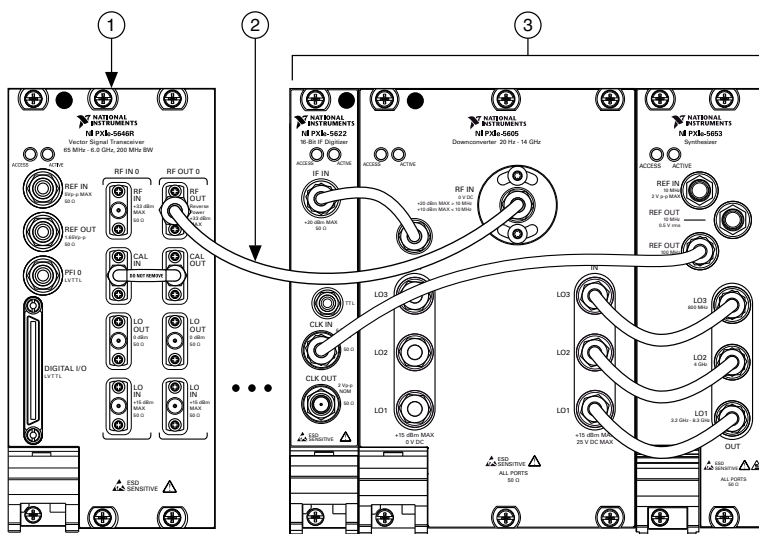
Verifying RF Output EVM (Functional Test)

This procedure verifies the modulation performance of the PXIe-5646.

1. Connect the RF OUT front panel connector of the PXIe-5646 to the RF IN front panel connector of the vector signal analyzer.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 20. RF Output EVM Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Spectrum Analyzer
2. Configure the vector signal analyzer to acquire a complex modulated signal at 400 MHz using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 400 MHz
 - Reference level: -10 dBm

- I/Q rate: 50 MS/s
 - Record length: 300 μ s
3. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate a complex modulated signal at the *center frequency* specified in step 2 using the following settings:
 - Power level: -10 dBm
 - I/Q rate: 120 MS/s
 4. Configure the modulated waveform signal with the Modulation Toolkit using the following settings:
 - QAM: 64
 - Symbol rate: 16 MSymbols/s
 - Samples per symbol: 4
 - Pulse shape filtering: Root raise cosine, 0.25 alpha
 - PN sequence order: 14
 5. Download the waveform from step 4 to the PXIe-5646 and generate the modulated signal.
 6. Acquire the signal with the vector signal analyzer and demodulate it with the Modulation Toolkit using the settings from step 4.
 7. Measure and record the RMS EVM in dB.
 8. Repeat steps 2 through 7 for frequencies from 400 MHz to 6 GHz in 200 MHz steps.
 9. Compare the results from this procedure to the specified limits:
 - As-found: -40 dB
 - As-left: -40 dB

Verifying LO OUT (RF IN 0 and RF OUT 0) (Functional Test)

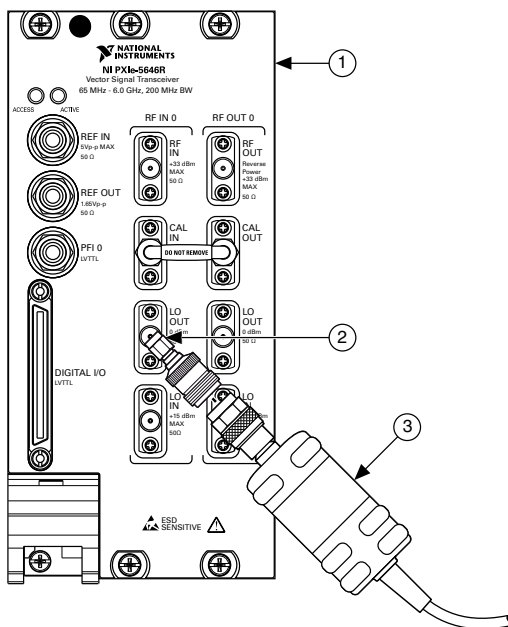
This procedure verifies the power level of the local oscillator (LO) for the input and output channels of the PXIe-5646.

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

1. Connect the PXIe-5646 LO OUT (RF IN 0) front panel connector to the power sensor using the SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 21. LO OUT (RF IN 0) Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter
 3. Power Sensor
2. Configure the PXIe-5646 RF IN channel to export the local oscillator, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 100 MHz
 - LO OUT enabled: Enabled
 3. Configure the power sensor to correct for the *center frequency* from step 2 using the power sensor frequency correction function.
 4. Use the power sensor to measure the signal power at the LO OUT (RF IN 0) connector.
 5. Compare the measured LO OUT (RF IN 0) output power to the limits listed in the following table.

Table 36. LO OUT Power Test Limits

| Frequency | LO OUT Power | | As-Found Limit (dB) | As-Left Limit (dB) |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | LO OUT (RF IN 0) (dBm) | LO OUT (RF OUT 0) (dBm) | | |
| 65 MHz to 6 GHz | 0 | 0 | ± 2.0 | ± 2.0 |
| The limits in this table are <i>typical</i> values. Typical values describe useful product performance beyond specifications that are not covered by warranty and do not include guardbands for measurement uncertainty or drift. | | | | |

- Repeat steps 2 through 5 for the remaining frequencies between 100 MHz and 1 GHz, in 100 MHz steps.
- Repeat steps 2 through 5 for the remaining frequencies between 1.5 GHz and 6 GHz, in 500 MHz steps.
- Move the power sensor from the LO OUT (RF IN 0) connector to the LO OUT (RF OUT 0) connector, then repeat steps 1 through 7 for the LO OUT (RF OUT 0) connector.

Updating Calibration Date and Time

This procedure updates the date and time of the last calibration of the PXIe-5646.

Prior to updating the calibration date and time on the PXIe-5646, you must successfully complete all required verifications or successfully complete reverification following adjustment.



Note You do not need to complete the optional verification procedures to update the calibration date and time.

- Call the Update External Calibration Last Date and Time VI.
- Call the Update External Calibration Temp VI.

Optional Verification

Use the following procedures to verify nonwarranted specifications for the PXIe-5646.

Verifying RF Input and RF Output Return Loss

This procedure verifies the return loss, also referred to as the voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR), of the PXIe-5646 RF input and output.

- Calibrate the VNA for an S11 (return loss) measurement using the following settings:
 - Calibration: Short, open, load (SOL)
 - Sweep: 65 MHz to 6 GHz
 - Points: 801
 - IF bandwidth: 3 kHz

- Power: 5 dBm
 - Connection: Male SMA
2. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector to the calibrated PORT 1 of the VNA using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
 3. Configure the PXIe-5646 receiver for 350 MHz with a -10 dBm reference level.
 4. Perform an S11 measurement sweep using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 350 MHz
 - Reference level: 0 dBm
 5. Record the minimum absolute return loss value between the start and stop frequency listed for the specified carrier frequency in step 3. Compare the results with the appropriate limits listed in the following table.

Table 37. RF Input Return Loss Test Limits

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dB) | As-Left Limit (dB) |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| $109 \text{ MHz} \leq f < 2.4 \text{ GHz}$ | 13 | 13 |
| $2.4 \text{ GHz} \leq f < 4 \text{ GHz}$ | 11 | 11 |
| $4 \text{ GHz} \leq f < 6 \text{ GHz}$ | 10 | 10 |



Note The as-found and as-left limits are not listed in the published specifications for the PXIe-5646. As-left limits are based on the published *PXIe-5646 Specifications*, less guard bands for measurement uncertainty, temperature drift, and drift over time.

6. Repeat steps 3 through 5 for the remaining configurations listed in the following table.

Table 38. Return Loss Test Points

| Configured Frequency (MHz) | Measurement Start Frequency (MHz) | Measurement Stop Frequency (MHz) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 350 | 109 | <600 |
| 800 | 600 | <1,000 |
| 1,200 | 1,000 | <1,600 |
| 2,000 | 1,600 | <2,700 |
| 3,000 | 2,700 | <4,000 |
| 4,500 | 4,000 | <5,000 |
| 5,500 | 5,000 | 6,000 |

7. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the calibrated PORT 1 of the VNA using an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
8. Configure the PXIe-5646 to generate a -30 dBm CW tone at 350 MHz.

- Perform an S11 measurement sweep. Record the minimum absolute return loss value between the start and stop frequency listed for the specified carrier frequency in step 3. Compare the results with the appropriate limits listed in the following table.

Table 39. RF Output Return Loss Test Limits

| Frequency | As-Found Limit (dB) | As-Left Limit (dB) |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| $109 \text{ MHz} \leq f < 2 \text{ GHz}$ | 16 | 16 |
| $2 \text{ GHz} \leq f < 5 \text{ GHz}$ | 13 | 13 |
| $5 \text{ GHz} \leq f < 6 \text{ GHz}$ | 9 | 9 |



Note The as-found and as-left limits are not listed in the published specifications for the PXIe-5646. As-left limits are based on the published *PXIe-5646 Specifications*, less guard bands for measurement uncertainty, temperature drift, and drift over time.

- Repeat steps 8 and 9 for the remaining configured frequencies listed in the *Return Loss Test Points* table.

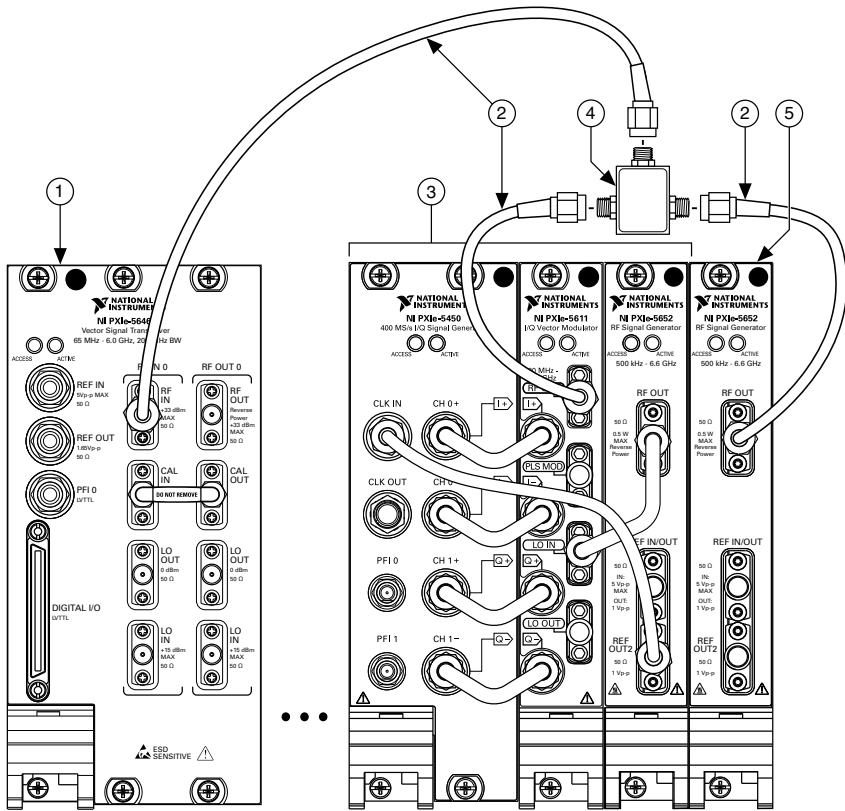
Verifying RF Input IMD3 and Second-Order Input Intermodulation (IMD2)

This procedure verifies the IMD3 and IMD2 distortion products of the PXIe-5646.

- Connect the RF OUT ports of the vector signal generator and CW generator to the input ports of the power combiner.
- Connect the output of the power combiner to the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 22. RF Input IMD3 and IMD2 Verification Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
3. Vector Signal Generator

4. Power Combiner
5. CW Signal Generator

3. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
4. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the vector signal generator REF IN front panel connector.
5. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the CW generator REF IN front panel connector.
6. Configure the PXIe-5646 for a center frequency of 65 MHz, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 65 MHz
 - Reference level: *Configured reference level* from the *IIP3 Test Limits* table that corresponds to the *center frequency*
 - Span: 20 MHz
 - Resolution bandwidth: 1 kHz

- Averaging mode: RMS
- Number of averages: 10
- Window type: Flat Top
- Reference Clock source: REF IN
- Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz



Note Steps 7 and 8 configure the vector signal generator at a 2 MHz (f_1) and the CW generator at a 2.7 MHz (f_2) offset from the center frequency. The spacing of the two tones is the same for all iterations of this procedure.

- Configure the vector signal generator for a frequency offset of f_1 from the *center frequency* in step 6, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 6 + f_1
 - Power level: *Reference level* from step 6
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz
- Configure the CW generator for a frequency offset of f_2 from the *center frequency* in step 6, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: *Center frequency* from step 6 + f_2
 - Power level: *Reference level* from step 6
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
 - Reference Clock frequency: 10 MHz
- Acquire a spectrum of the combined signal from steps 7 and 8 using the PXIe-5646.
- Measure the power at expected distortion frequencies using the following settings:
 - *Center frequency* from step 6 + f_1 , record as *fundamental tone₁*
 - *Center frequency* from step 6 + f_2 , record as *fundamental tone₂*
 - Center frequency + $(2f_1 - f_2)$, record as *IMD3 tone*
 - Center frequency + $(2f_2 - f_1)$, record as *IMD3 tone*
 - Center frequency + $(f_2 - f_1)$, record as *IMD2 tone*
 - Center frequency + $(f_2 + f_1)$, record as *IMD2 tone*
- Calculate *input IMD3* and *input IP3* using the following equations.

$$\text{input IMD3} = \text{maximum (IMD3 tone power)} - \text{minimum (fundamental tone)}$$

$$\text{input IP3} = \text{maximum (IMD3 tone power)} + (\text{IMD3}) / 2$$
 Record the *input IP3* value.
- Calculate *input IMD2* and *input IP2* using the following equations.

$$\text{input IMD2} = \text{maximum (IMD2 Tone)} - \text{minimum (fundamental tone)}$$

$$\text{input IP2} = 2 * \text{maximum (IMD3 tone power)} + \text{IMD2}$$
 Record the *input IP2* value.
- Repeat steps 6 through 12 for the remaining frequencies from 65 MHz to 6 GHz in 90 MHz steps.
- Compare the calculated *input IP3* and *input IP2* with the specified limits in the following tables.

Table 40. IIP3 Test Limits

| Frequency | Configured Reference Level (dBm) | As-Found Limit (dBm) | As-Left Limit (dBm) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 65 MHz to 1.5 GHz | -5 | 19 | 19 |
| >1.5 GHz to 4 GHz | -5 | 20 | 20 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -2 | 20 | 20 |

Table 41. IIP2 Test Limits

| Frequency | Configured Reference Level (dBm) | As-Found Limit (dBm) | As-Left Limit (dBm) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 65 MHz to 1.5 GHz | -5 | 69 | 69 |
| >1.5 GHz to 4 GHz | -5 | 58 | 58 |
| >4 GHz to 6 GHz | -2 | 52 | 52 |

Adjustment

This section describes the steps needed to adjust the PXIe-5646 to meet published specifications.

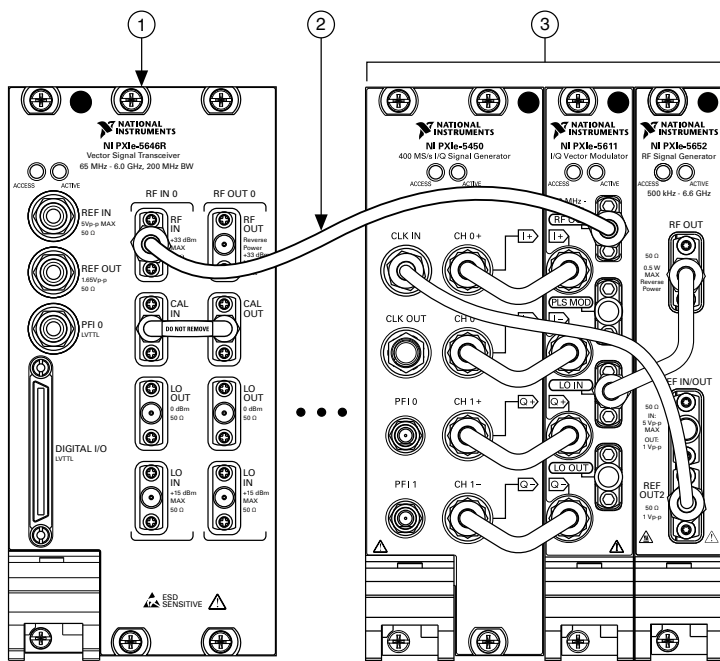
Adjusting RF Internal Frequency Reference

This procedure measures the accuracy of the internal frequency reference, which you use to realign the internal frequency reference to a value within warranted specifications.

1. Connect the vector signal generator RF OUT front panel connector to the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 23. Internal Frequency Reference Adjustment Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 3. Vector Signal Generator
2. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the vector signal generator REF IN front panel connector.
 3. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a 2.22 GHz signal with a 0 dBm average output power, using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 2.22 GHz
 - Output power: 0 dBm
 - Reference Clock source: External
 4. Call the niVST Initialize External Calibration VI.
 5. Call the niVST Reference Clock Cal VI. Wire the frequency of the vector signal generator to the **actual frequency** input.
 6. Call the niVST Close External Calibration VI. Set the **write calibration to hardware?** input to TRUE to store the results to the EEPROM on the PXIe-5646.

Adjusting Input Absolute Amplitude Accuracy

This procedure measures the response of the RF IN signal path of the PXIe-5646. The response receives external signals at the RF IN front panel connector at a higher accuracy and optimized dynamic range.

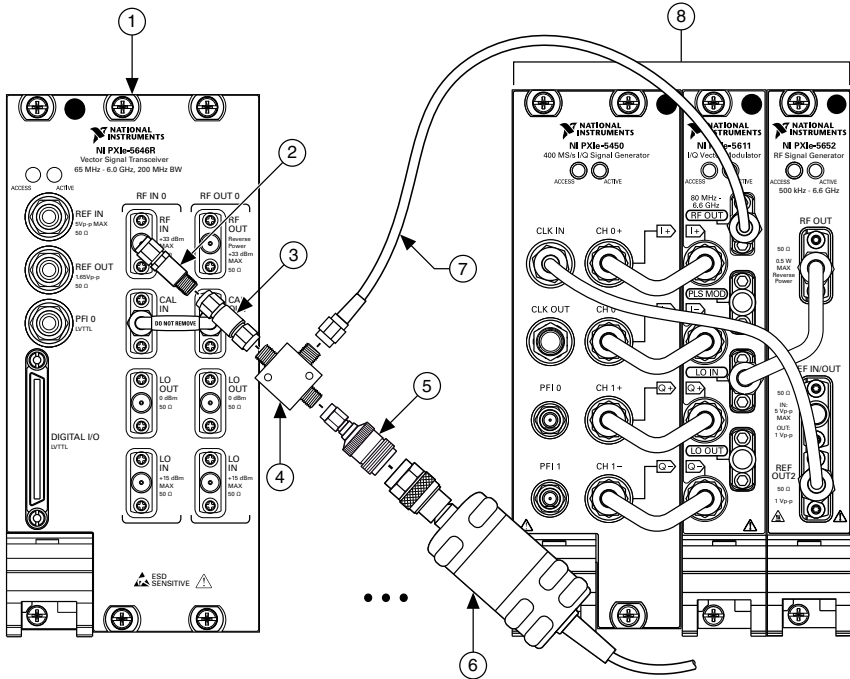
This procedure requires the test setup and data collected in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Balance](#) section. You must characterize the power splitter balance before running this procedure. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points 65 MHz to 6 GHz, in 5 MHz steps

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

1. Connect the vector signal generator RF OUT front panel connector to the input terminal of the power splitter using a SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.
2. Connect splitter output 1 directly to the power sensor input connector using an SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.
3. Connect the splitter output 2 to the SMA (f) end of the 6 dB attenuator using a 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) adapter.
4. Connect the remaining 6 dB attenuator SMA (m) connector directly to the PXIe-5646 RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the hardware setup.

Figure 24. Absolute Amplitude Accuracy Adjustment Cabling Diagram



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. PXIe-5646 | 5. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter |
| 2. 6 dB Attenuator | 6. Power Sensor |
| 3. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter | 7. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable |
| 4. Power Splitter | 8. Vector Signal Generator |

5. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
6. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the vector signal generator REF IN front panel connector.
7. Configure the PXIe-5646 to acquire a signal at 500 MHz using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 500 MHz
 - Reference level: 30 dBm



Note Steps 8 through 12 create correction factors that transfer the accuracy of the power sensor to the generator. Record the results from these steps in a lookup table called *Accuracy Transfer Results*.

8. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a tone using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: 65 MHz
 - Tone offset: 3.75 MHz
 - Power level: *Configured output power* from transfer row A of the following table
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN

Table 42. Absolute Amplitude Accuracy Adjustment Transfer Table

| Transfer | Supported Output Power Levels | Configured Output Power (dBm) | Start Frequency (MHz) | Stop Frequency (GHz) | Frequency Step Size (MHz) |
|----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| A | >-20 dBm to 0 dBm | 0 | 65 | 6 | 5 |
| B | ≤-20 dBm | -20 | 65 | 6 | 5 |

9. Configure the power sensor to correct for the *center frequency* listed in step 7 using the power sensor frequency correction function.
10. Measure the power of the signal present at splitter output 1 of the power splitter using the power sensor.
11. Repeat steps 8 through 10 for the remaining frequencies listed in transfer row A of the previous table.
12. Repeat steps 8 through 11 for transfer row B of the previous table. Record the results from this step as *accuracy transfer result*. Create a table and include a value for each test point, *transfer* versus *frequency*.
13. Call the niVST Initialize External Calibration VI.
14. Call the niVST RF Input Gain Cal Initialize VI. Wire a Ref In constant to the **reference clock source** input.
15. Call the niVST RF Input Gain Cal Configure VI.
16. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a tone using the following settings:
 - Center frequency: **frequency to generate** output from step 15 - 3.75 MHz
 - Tone offset: 3.75 MHz
 - Power level: *Configured output power* from the transfer row of the previous table that supports the result of the following expression:
(*power to generate* from step 15 + 10 dB) or 0 dBm, whichever is less
 - I/Q rate: 10 MS/s
 - Digital gain: (*power to generate* from step 15 + 10 dB) - *power level* from step 16) or 0 dB, whichever is less.
 - Reference Clock source: REF IN
17. Calculate the *transfer input power* using the following equation:

$$\text{transfer input power} = \text{accuracy transfer result} + \text{digital gain from step 16}$$



Note Determine the *accuracy transfer result* by interpolating between the data points in the accuracy transfer results row based on step 16.

18. Calculate the *corrected input power* using the following equation:

$$\text{corrected input power} = \text{transferred input power} + \text{splitter balance}$$



Note Determine the *splitter balance* by interpolating between data points from the *Characterizing Power Splitter Balance* section. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points 65 MHz to 6 GHz, in 5 MHz steps.

19. Call the niVST RF Input Gain Cal Adjust VI.
 - a) Wire the *corrected input power* from step 18 to the **actual power** input.
 - b) Wire the value of (*center frequency* of the vector signal generator from step 16 + 3.75 MHz) to the **actual frequency** input.
20. Repeat steps 15 through 19 until the **RF input gain calibration complete** output of the niVST RF Input Gain Cal Adjust VI returns a value of TRUE.
21. Call the niVST Close External Calibration VI. Set the **write calibration to hardware?** input to TRUE to store the results to the EEPROM on the PXIe-5646.

Adjusting Output Power Level Accuracy

This procedure measures the response of the RF OUT signal path of the PXIe-5646. The response generates accuracy signals at the RF OUT front panel connector.

This procedure requires the test setup and data collected in the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. You must characterize the power splitter loss before running this procedure. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points 65 MHz to 6 GHz, in 5 MHz steps.

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

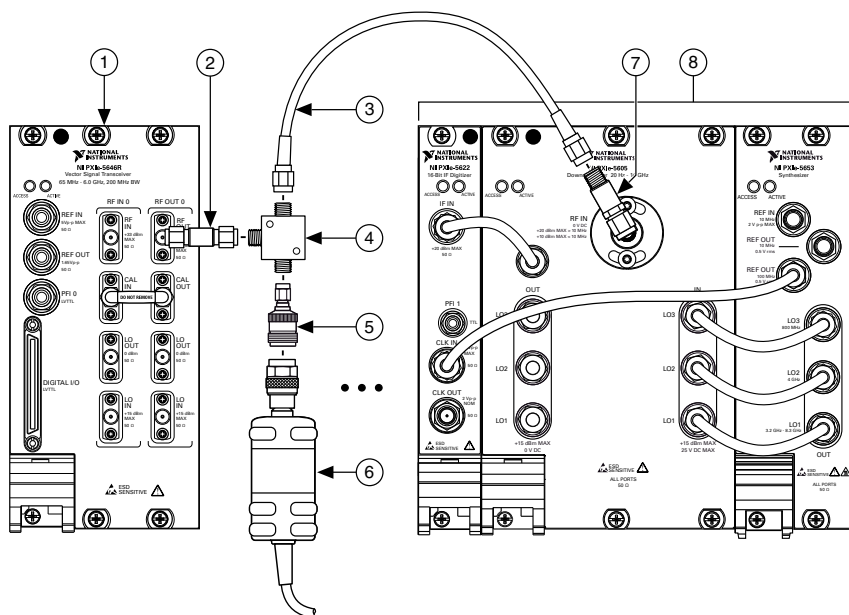
1. Connect the PXIe-5646 RF OUT front panel connector to the input terminal of the power splitter using a 3.5mm (m)-to-3.5mm (m) adapter.
2. Connect splitter output 1 directly to the power sensor using the SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.
3. Connect the remaining power splitter output to one end of the 6 dB attenuator using an SMA (m)-to- SMA (m) cable.
4. Connect the other port of the 6 dB attenuator directly to the spectrum analyzer RF IN front panel connector.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.



Note If you use the PXIe-5665, as recommended, for the spectrum analyzer, disable the preamplifier and preselector options and set the FFT window type to Flat Top.

Figure 25. Output Power Level Accuracy Adjustment Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
 2. 3.5 mm (m)-to-3.5 mm (m) Adapter
 3. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
 4. Power Splitter
 5. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter
 6. Power Sensor
 7. 6 dB Attenuator
 8. Spectrum Analyzer
5. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the PXIe-5646 REF IN front panel connector.
 6. Connect an available 10 MHz rubidium frequency reference output to the vector signal analyzer REF IN front panel connector.
 7. Call the niVST Initialize External Calibration VI.
 8. Call the niVST RF Output Gain Cal Initialize VI. Wire a RefIn constant to the **reference clock source** input.
 9. Call the niVST RF Output Gain Cal Configure VI.
 10. Configure the spectrum analyzer to acquire a signal with the following settings:
 - Center frequency: **frequency to measure** output of the niVST RF Output Gain Cal Configure VI
 - Reference level: *Configured reference level* specified in the *Accuracy Transfer Definitions* table from the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section that supports the result of the following expression:
expected power output from step 9 - 12 dB
 - Span: *Span* from the following table that corresponds to the *reference level* from this step
 - Resolution bandwidth: *RBW* from the following table that corresponds to the *reference level* from this step

- Averaging mode: RMS
- Number of averages: *Number of averages* from the following table that corresponds to the reference level from this step

Table 43. Advanced Spectrum Analyzer Settings

| Supported Output Power Levels | Span (kHz) | RBW | Number of Averages |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|--------------------|
| $x > -70$ dBm | 250 | 4 kHz | 10 |
| -70 dBm $\geq x > -100$ dBm | 250 | 900 Hz | 20 |
| $x \leq -100$ dBm | 250 | 900 Hz | 100 |

11. Acquire the signal with the spectrum analyzer and measure the peak tone power.
12. Calculate the *transferred output power* using the following equation:

$$\text{transferred output power} = \text{accuracy transfer result} + \text{measured tone power}$$



Note Determine the *accuracy transfer result* by interpolating between the data points in the *RF Output Accuracy Transfer Results* table you created in step 21 of the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points 65 MHz to 6 GHz, in 5 MHz steps. Choose the value that corresponds to the transfer used.

13. Calculate the *corrected output power* using the following equation:

$$\text{corrected output power} = \text{transferred output power} + \text{splitter loss}$$



Note Determine the *splitter loss* by interpolating between the data points in the *Splitter Loss* table you created in step 20 of the [Characterizing Power Splitter Loss](#) section. Ensure you use the characterization data derived from test points 65 MHz to 6 GHz, in 5 MHz steps. Choose the value that corresponds to the transfer used.

14. Call the niVST RF Output Gain Cal Adjust VI. Wire the *corrected output power* from step 13 to the **measured power** input.
15. Repeat steps 9 through 14 until the **RF output gain calibration complete** output of the niVST RF Output Gain Cal Adjust VI returns a value of TRUE.
16. Call the niVST Close External Calibration VI. Set the **write calibration to hardware?** input to TRUE to store the results to the EEPROM on the PXIe-5646.

Adjusting LO OUT (RF IN 0 and RF OUT 0)

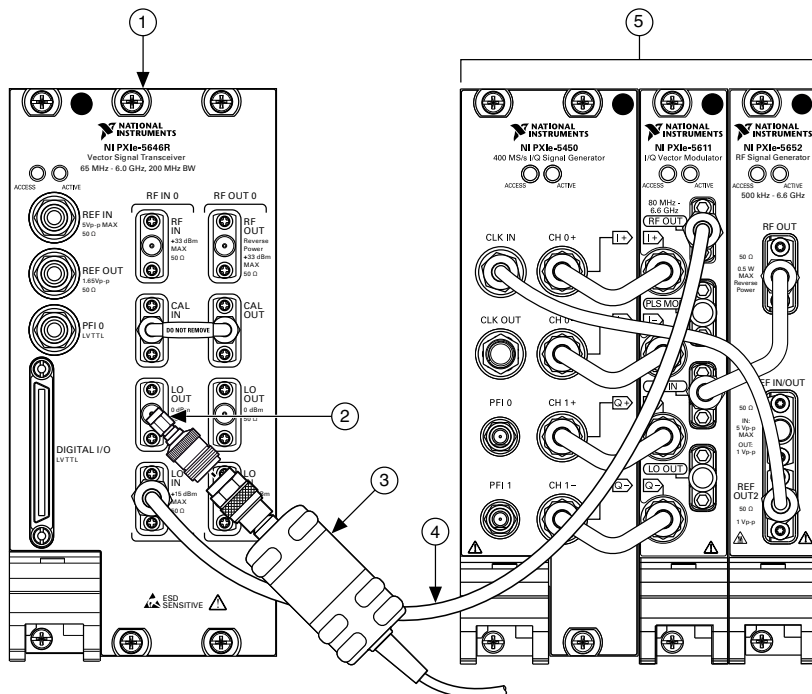
This procedure measures the PXIe-5646 LO Power Sensor response. The internal power sensor ensures that the internal LO power level is correct at the mixing stages for the RF IN and RF OUT channels.

You must zero the power sensor as described in the [Zeroing the Power Sensor](#) section prior to starting this procedure.

1. Connect the power sensor to the PXIe-5646 RF IN 0 LO OUT front panel with the SMA (m)-to-N (f) adapter.
2. Connect the vector signal generator RF OUT front panel connector to the PXIe-5646 RF IN 0 LO IN front panel connector with an SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) cable.

The following figure illustrates the complete hardware setup.

Figure 26. LO OUT Adjustment Cabling Diagram



1. PXIe-5646
2. SMA (m)-to-N (f) Adapter
3. Power Sensor
4. SMA (m)-to-SMA (m) Cable
5. Vector Signal Generator

3. Call the niVST Initialize External Calibration VI.
4. Call the niVST LO Cal Initialize VI. Wire an RF In constant to the **port type** input.
5. Call the niVST LO Cal Configure VI.
6. Configure the vector signal generator to generate a tone with the following settings:
 - Center frequency: **frequency to generate** output specified by the niVST LO Cal Configure VI.
 - Power level: **power to generate** output specified by the niVST LO Cal Configure VI.
 - Reference Clock source: Onboard
7. Configure the power meter to correct for the **frequency to generate** output specified by the niVST LO Cal Configure VI.
8. Measure the power of the signal present at the RF IN 0 LO OUT front panel connector using the power sensor.
9. Call the niVST LO Cal Adjust VI. Wire the measured value from step 8 to the **measured LO Out power** input.

10. Repeat steps 5 through 9 until the **LO calibration complete** output of the niVST LO Cal Adjust VI returns a value of TRUE.
11. Call the niVST Close External Calibration VI. Set the **write calibration to hardware?** input to TRUE to store the results to the EEPROM on the PXIe-5646.
12. Repeat steps 1 to 11 for RF OUT 0 LO OUT to adjust the LO power sensor of the PXIe-5646 RF OUT channel.

Reverification

Repeat the [Verification](#) section to determine the as-left status of the PXIe-5646.



Note If any test fails reverification after performing an adjustment, verify that you have met the test conditions before returning your PXIe-5646 to NI. Refer to the [Worldwide Support and Services](#) section for information about support resources or service requests.

Worldwide Support and Services

The NI website is your complete resource for technical support. At ni.com/support, you have access to everything from troubleshooting and application development self-help resources to email and phone assistance from NI Application Engineers.

Visit ni.com/services for information about the services NI offers.

Visit ni.com/register to register your NI product. Product registration facilitates technical support and ensures that you receive important information updates from NI.

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