

Performance Specification 8A -- Specifications and Test Procedures for Total Hydrocarbon Continuous Monitoring Systems in Stationary Sources

1. Applicability and Principle

1.1 *Applicability.* These performance specifications apply to hydrocarbon (HC) continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS) installed on stationary sources. The specifications include procedures which are intended to be used to evaluate the acceptability of the CEMS at the time of its installation or whenever specified in regulations or permits. The procedures are not designed to evaluate CEMS performance over an extended period of time. The source owner or operator is responsible for the proper calibration, maintenance, and operation of the CEMS at all times.

1.2 *Principle.* A gas sample is extracted from the source through a heated sample line and heated filter to a flame ionization detector (FID). Results are reported as volume concentration equivalents of propane. Installation and measurement location specifications, performance and equipment specifications, test and data reduction procedures, and brief quality assurance guidelines are included in the specifications. Calibration drift, calibration error, and response time tests are conducted to determine conformance of the CEMS with the specifications.

2. Definitions

2.1 *Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS).* The total equipment used to acquire data, which includes sample extraction and transport hardware, analyzer, data recording and processing hardware, and software. The system consists of the following major subsystems:

2.1.1 *Sample Interface.* That portion of the system that is used for one or more of the following: Sample acquisition, sample transportation, sample conditioning, or protection of the analyzer from the effects of the stack effluent.

2.1.2 *Organic Analyzer.* That portion of the system that senses organic concentration and generates an output proportional to the gas concentration.

2.1.3 *Data Recorder.* That portion of the system that records a permanent record of the measurement values. The data recorder may include automatic data reduction capabilities.

2.2 *Instrument Measurement Range.* The difference between the minimum and maximum concentration that can be measured by a specific instrument. The minimum is often stated or assumed to be zero and the range expressed only as the maximum.

2.3 *Span or Span Value.* Full scale instrument measurement range. The span value must be documented by the CEMS manufacturer with laboratory data.

2.4 *Calibration Gas.* A known concentration of a gas in an appropriate diluent gas.

2.5 *Calibration Drift (CD).* The difference in the CEMS output readings from the established reference value after a stated period of operation during which no unscheduled maintenance, repair, or adjustment takes place. A CD test is performed to demonstrate the stability of the CEMS calibration

over time.

2.6 Response Time. The time interval between the start of a step change in the system input (e.g., change of calibration gas) and the time when the data recorder displays 95 percent of the final value.

2.7 Accuracy. A measurement of agreement between a measured value and an accepted or true value, expressed as the percentage difference between the true and measured values relative to the true value. For these performance specifications, accuracy is checked by conducting a calibration error (CE) test.

2.8 Calibration Error (CE). The difference between the concentration indicated by the CEMS and the known concentration of the cylinder gas. A CE test procedure is performed to document the accuracy and linearity of the monitoring equipment over the entire measurement range.

2.9 Performance Specification Test (PST) Period. The period during which CD, CE, and response time tests are conducted.

2.10 Centroidal Area. A concentric area that is geometrically similar to the stack or duct cross section and is no greater than 1 percent of the stack or duct cross-sectional area.

3. Installation and Measurement Location Specifications

3.1 CEMS Installation and Measurement Locations. The CEMS must be installed in a location in which measurements representative of the source's emissions can be obtained. The optimum location of the sample interface for the CEMS is determined by a number of factors, including ease of access for calibration and maintenance, the degree to which sample conditioning will be required, the degree to which it represents total emissions, and the degree to which it represents the combustion situation in the firebox (where applicable). The location should be as free from in-leakage influences as possible and reasonably free from severe flow disturbances. The sample location should be at least two equivalent duct diameters downstream from the nearest control device, point of pollutant generation, or other point at which a change in the pollutant concentration or emission rate occurs and at least 0.5 diameter upstream from the exhaust or control device. The equivalent duct diameter is calculated as per 40 CFR part 60, appendix A, method 1, section 2.1. If these criteria are not achievable or if the location is otherwise less than optimum, the possibility of stratification should be investigated as described in section 3.2. The measurement point must be within the centroidal area of the stack or duct cross section.

3.2 Stratification Test Procedure. Stratification is defined as a difference in excess of 10 percent between the average concentration in the duct or stack and the concentration at any point more than 1.0 meter from the duct or stack wall. To determine whether effluent stratification exists, a dual probe system should be used to determine the average effluent concentration while measurements at each traverse point are being made. One probe, located at the stack or duct centroid, is used as a stationary reference point to indicate the change in effluent concentration over time. The second probe is used for sampling at the traverse points specified in 40 CFR part 60 appendix A, method 1. The monitoring system samples sequentially at the reference and traverse points throughout the testing period for five minutes at each point.

4. CEMS Performance and Equipment Specifications

If this method is applied in highly explosive areas, caution and care must be exercised in choice of equipment and installation.

4.1 *Flame Ionization Detector (FID) Analyzer.* A heated FID analyzer capable of meeting or exceeding the requirements of these specifications. Heated systems must maintain the temperature of the sample gas between 150 °C (300 °F) and 175 °C (350 °F) throughout the system. This requires all system components such as the probe, calibration valve, filter, sample lines, pump, and the FID to be kept heated at all times such that no moisture is condensed out of the system. The essential components of the measurement system are described below:

4.1.1 *Sample Probe.* Stainless steel, or equivalent, to collect a gas sample from the centroidal area of the stack cross-section.

4.1.2 *Sample Line.* Stainless steel or Teflon tubing to transport the sample to the analyzer.

Note: Mention of trade names or specific products does not constitute endorsement by the Environmental Protection Agency.

4.1.3 *Calibration Valve Assembly.* A heated three-way valve assembly to direct the zero and calibration gases to the analyzer is recommended. Other methods, such as quick-connect lines, to route calibration gas to the analyzers are applicable.

4.1.4 *Particulate Filter.* An in-stack or out-of-stack sintered stainless steel filter is recommended if exhaust gas particulate loading is significant. An out-of-stack filter must be heated.

4.1.5 *Fuel.* The fuel specified by the manufacturer (e.g., 40 percent hydrogen/60 percent helium, 40 percent hydrogen/60 percent nitrogen gas mixtures, or pure hydrogen) should be used.

4.1.6 *Zero Gas.* High purity air with less than 0.1 parts per million by volume (ppm) HC as methane or carbon equivalent or less than 0.1 percent of the span value, whichever is greater.

4.1.7 *Calibration Gases.* Appropriate concentrations of propane gas (in air or nitrogen). Preparation of the calibration gases should be done according to the procedures in EPA Protocol 1. In addition, the manufacturer of the cylinder gas should provide a recommended shelf life for each calibration gas cylinder over which the concentration does not change by more than ± 2 percent from the certified value.

4.2 *CEMS Span Value.* 100 ppm propane. The span value must be documented by the CEMS manufacturer with laboratory data.

4.3 *Daily Calibration Gas Values.* The owner or operator must choose calibration gas concentrations that include zero and high-level calibration values.

4.3.1 The zero level may be between zero and 0.1 ppm (zero and 0.1 percent of the span value).

4.3.2 The high-level concentration must be between 50 and 90 ppm (50 and 90 percent of the span value).

4.4 *Data Recorder Scale.* The strip chart recorder, computer, or digital recorder must be capable of recording all readings within the CEMS' measurement range and must have a resolution of 0.5 ppm (0.5 percent of span value).

4.5 *Response Time.* The response time for the CEMS must not exceed 2 minutes to achieve 95 percent of the final stable value.

4.6 *Calibration Drift.* The CEMS must allow the determination of CD at the zero and high-level values. The CEMS calibration response must not differ by more than $\pm\pm 3$ ppm ($\pm\pm 3$ percent of the span value) after each 24-hour period of the 7-day test at both zero and high levels.

4.7 *Calibration Error.* The mean difference between the CEMS and reference values at all three test points listed below must be no greater than 5 ppm ($\pm\pm 5$ percent of the span value).

4.7.1 *Zero Level.* Zero to 0.1 ppm (0 to 0.1 percent of span value).

4.7.2 *Mid-Level.* 30 to 40 ppm (30 to 40 percent of span value).

4.7.3 *High-Level.* 70 to 80 ppm (70 to 80 percent of span value).

4.8 *Measurement and Recording Frequency.* The sample to be analyzed must pass through the measurement section of the analyzer without interruption. The detector must measure the sample concentration at least once every 15 seconds. An average emission rate must be computed and recorded at least once every 60 seconds.

4.9 *Hourly Rolling Average Calculation.* The CEMS must calculate every minute an hourly rolling average, which is the arithmetic mean of the 60 most recent 1-minute average values.

4.10 *Retest.* If the CEMS produces results within the specified criteria, the test is successful. If the CEMS does not meet one or more of the criteria, necessary corrections must be made and the performance tests repeated.

5. Performance Specification Test (PST) Periods

5.1 *Pretest Preparation Period.* Install the CEMS, prepare the PTM test site according to the specifications in section 3, and prepare the CEMS for operation and calibration according to the manufacturer's written instructions. A pretest conditioning period similar to that of the 7-day CD test is recommended to verify the operational status of the CEMS.

5.2 *Calibration Drift Test Period.* While the facility is operating under normal conditions, determine the magnitude of the CD at 24-hour intervals for seven consecutive days according to the procedure given in section 6.1. All CD determinations must be made following a 24-hour period during which no unscheduled maintenance, repair, or adjustment takes place. If the combustion unit is taken out of service during the test period, record the onset and duration of the downtime and continue the CD test

when the unit resumes operation.

5.3 Calibration Error Test and Response Time Test Periods. Conduct the CE and response time tests during the CD test period.

6. Performance Specification Test Procedures

6.1 Relative Accuracy Test Audit (RATA) and Absolute Calibration Audits (ACA). The test procedures described in this section are in lieu of a RATA and ACA.

6.2 Calibration Drift Test.

6.2.1 Sampling Strategy. Conduct the CD test at 24-hour intervals for seven consecutive days using calibration gases at the two daily concentration levels specified in section 4.3. Introduce the two calibration gases into the sampling system as close to the sampling probe outlet as practical. The gas must pass through all CEM components used during normal sampling. If periodic automatic or manual adjustments are made to the CEMS zero and calibration settings, conduct the CD test immediately before these adjustments, or conduct it in such a way that the CD can be determined. Record the CEMS response and subtract this value from the reference (calibration gas) value. To meet the specification, none of the differences may exceed 3 percent of the span of the CEM.

6.2.2 Calculations. Summarize the results on a data sheet. An example is shown in Figure 1. Calculate the differences between the CEMS responses and the reference values.

6.3 Response Time. The entire system including sample extraction and transport, sample conditioning, gas analyses, and the data recording is checked with this procedure.

6.3.1 Introduce the calibration gases at the probe as near to the sample location as possible. Introduce the zero gas into the system. When the system output has stabilized (no change greater than 1 percent of full scale for 30 sec), switch to monitor stack effluent and wait for a stable value. Record the time (upscale response time) required to reach 95 percent of the final stable value.

6.3.2 Next, introduce a high-level calibration gas and repeat the above procedure. Repeat the entire procedure three times and determine the mean upscale and downscale response times. The longer of the two means is the system response time.

6.4 Calibration Error Test Procedure.

6.4.1 Sampling Strategy. Challenge the CEMS with zero gas and EPA Protocol 1 cylinder gases at measurement points within the ranges specified in section 4.7.

6.4.1.1 The daily calibration gases, if Protocol 1, may be used for this test.

SOURCE:	DATE:
MONITOR:	LOCATION:
SERIAL NUMBER:	SPAN:

	DAY	DATE	TIME	CALIBRATION VALUE	MONITOR RESPONSE	DIFFERENCE	PERCENT OF SPAN ¹
ZERO/LOW LEVEL	1						
	2						
	3						
	4						
	5						
	6						
	7						
HIGH LEVEL	1						
	2						
	3						
	4						
	5						
	6						
	7						

¹/ = Acceptance Criteria: $\leq 3\%$ of span each day for seven days.

FIGURE 1: Calibration Drift Determination

6.4.1.2 Operate the CEMS as nearly as possible in its normal sampling mode. The calibration gas should be injected into the sampling system as close to the sampling probe outlet as practical and must pass through all filters, scrubbers, conditioners, and other monitor components used during normal sampling. Challenge the CEMS three non-consecutive times at each measurement point and record the responses. The duration of each gas injection should be for a sufficient period of time to ensure that the CEMS surfaces are conditioned.

6.4.2 Calculations. Summarize the results on a data sheet. An example data sheet is shown in Figure 2. Average the differences between the instrument response and the certified cylinder gas value for each gas. Calculate three CE results according to Equation 1. No confidence coefficient is used in CE calculations.

7. Equations

Calibration Error. Calculate CE using Equation 1.

$$CE = |d / FS| \times 100 \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

Where:

d = Mean difference between CEMS response and the known reference concentration, determined using Equation 2.

$$d = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n d_i \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

Where:

di = Individual difference between CEMS response and the known reference concentration.

8. Reporting

At a minimum, summarize in tabular form the results of the CD, response time, and CE test, as appropriate. Include all data sheets, calculations, CEMS data records, and cylinder gas or reference material certifications.

SOURCE:	DATE:
MONITOR:	LOCATION:
SERIAL NUMBER:	SPAN:

RUN NUMBER	CALIBRATION VALUE	MONITOR RESPONSE	DIFFERENCE		
			Zero/Low	Mid	High
1 - Zero					
2 - Mid					
3 - High					
4 - Mid					
5 - Zero					
6 - High					
7 - Zero					
8 - Mid					
9 - High					
Mean Difference =					
Calibration Error =			%	%	%

FIGURE 2: Calibration Error Determination

9. References

1. Measurement of Volatile Organic Compounds-Guideline Series. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27711, EPA-450/2-78-041, June 1978.
2. Traceability Protocol for Establishing True Concentrations of Gases Used for Calibration and Audits of Continuous Source Emission Monitors (Protocol No. 1). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ORD/EMSL, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27711, June 1978.
3. Gasoline Vapor Emission Laboratory Evaluation-Part 2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OAQPS, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27711, EMB Report No. 76-GAS-6, August 1975.