

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate use

MCERTS Your Existing Analysers

Environment Agency ruling allows reference method analysers to be verified as fit for purpose.

The Environment Agency has decided to approve standard reference method gas analysers, which can be verified by UKAS to comply with ISO17025, to be used by environment source testing consultancies for EN14181.

This comes as a result of the need to use analysers with a range of 1.5 times Emissions Limit Value (ELV) for applications covered by the Waste Incineration Directive (WID) and 2.5 times ELV for the Large Combustion Plant Directive (LPD) installations. Existing MCERTS approved analysers have insufficient sensitivity to measure at these low ranges and this allows “fit for purpose” analysers to be used without MCERTS approval.

This is a landmark victory for common sense. There are, for example, quality reference method chemiluminescent NOx analysers with many years of history in being used for accurate NOx measurement at low ppm levels which do not have TUV or MCERTS accreditation which hitherto have been disqualified from use.

For example, the Signal Model 4000VM is a heated vacuum based chemiluminescent NOx analyser with a lowest range of 0-1ppm and highest range of 0-10,000ppm that can measure stack samples hot and wet. It also has a very low quenching effect from CO2 and water. This makes it the ideal choice for stack testers because it can deal with very low levels whilst remaining linear.

It has no issues with NO2 losses in water condensate as the sample remains heated throughout. The vacuum means that interference from CO2 and water is negligible.

Many users of this equipment have recertified their vans for use in EN14181 using existing reference method analysers and can make their reports in the basis of total confidence that their readings will be accurate and above suspicion.

The memorandum detailing the Environment Agency's ruling is in the public domain and is posted on the website of the Source Testing Association (STA) www.s-t-a.org

ENDS

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