



EPA Source Emissions Test Method Revisions

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On September 8, 2015, the US EPA proposed a rule to revise several source emissions testing methods. Here is a partial list of revisions that will be of interest to the stack testing community. These are largely the author's view of the revisions. The official summary of revisions is on the web:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/09/08/2015-20768/revisions-to-test-methods-performance-specifications-and-testing-regulations-for-air-emission#h-13>

A number of these revisions will improve data quality, as is the EPA's intent. Some will allow additional flexibility, and some are simply correcting editorial errors.

Method	Revision
30B	Audit samples would not be required since the method includes self-validating provisions.
Methods that incorporate moisture determination via impingers	Field balances will require calibration checks
Gravimetric (particulate) methods	Analytical balances will require two-point calibration checks
Subpart JJJ Stationary Spark Ignition Engine tests	Only Method 25A will be allowed for VOC measurements. Exceptions persist for methane and ethane determinations, according to recent discussion threads: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/epa-quad-j-proposed-rules-do-eliminate-ftir-gc-altogether-zemek?trk=prof-post
Method 5 (isokinetic sampling)	EPA will issue broadly applicable test method determinations or letters of assessments regarding whether specific alternative metering equipment meets the specifications of the method.
Method 6C	The interference test only will need to be repeated if major components are replaced with different model parts.
Method 7E	In cases where the 3-point sampling is used, the three points along the measurement line exhibiting the highest average concentration during the stratification test will be 0.4, 1.2, and 2.0 meters instead of 0.4, 1.0, and 2.0 meters.
Method 10	The method will clarify which types of sample tanks are allowed for integrated sampling. Methods 10A and 10B will allow sample tanks as an alternative to flexible bags for sample collection.
Method 18	The requirement to analyze two field audit samples will be moved to General Provisions.
Method 26A	EPA will add language that "maintaining particulate probe/filter temperatures at 120+/-14 °C (248+/-25 °F)" minimizes interference from dissociating salts. This will harmonize probe/filter temperatures with those of Method 5.
Method 29	All impingers will be rinsed with hydrochloric acid (HCl) solution to ensure consistency across source categories.
Performance Specification 1 (COMS)	The PS will be revised as not to limit the location of a continuous opacity monitoring system to a point at least four duct diameters downstream and two diameters upstream from a control device or flow disturbance. The method will present additional options.
Performance Specification 4A	The entire system will be included in response time checks, and the response time requirement will be relaxed from 1.5 minutes to 2 minutes.
Other	Several methods will see editorial and reference revisions and corrections

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