

ARB METHOD 4: Determination of Moisture Content in Stack Gases

Principle

A gas sample is extracted at a constant rate from the source; moisture is removed from the sample stream and determined either volumetrically or gravimetrically.

Applicability

This method is applicable for determining the moisture content of stack gas. Two procedures are given. The first is a reference method, for accurate determinations of moisture content (such as are needed to calculate emission data). The second is an approximation method, which provides estimates of percent moisture to aid in setting isokinetic sampling rates prior to a pollutant emission measurement run. The approximation method described herein is only a suggested approach; alternative means for approximating the moisture content, e.g., drying tubes, wet bulb-dry techniques, condensation techniques, stoichiometric calculations, previous experience, etc., are also acceptable.

The reference method is often conducted simultaneously with a pollutant emission measurement run; when it is, calculation of percent isokinetic, pollutant emission rate, etc., for the run shall be based upon the results of the referenced method or its equivalent; these calculations shall not be based upon results of the approximation method, unless the approximation method is shown, to the satisfaction of the Control Agency's Authorized Representative, to be capable of yielding results within 1 percent H₂O of the reference method.

NOTE: The reference method may yield questionable results when applied to saturated gas streams or to streams that contain water droplets. Therefore, when these conditions exist or are suspected, a second determination of the moisture content shall be made simultaneously with the reference method, as follows: Assume that the gas stream is saturated. Attach a temperature sensor [capable of measuring to $\pm 1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ (2.0°F)] to the reference method probe. Measure the stack gas temperature at each traverse point (see Section 2.2.1) during the reference method traverse; calculate the average stack gas temperature. Next, determine the moisture percentage, either by: (1) using a psychrometric chart and making appropriate corrections if stack pressure is different from that of the chart, or (2) using saturation vapor pressure tables. In cases where the psychrometric chart or the saturation vapor pressure tables are not applicable (based on evaluation of the process), alternate methods, subject to the approval of the Control Agency's Authorized Representative, shall be used.

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