

1.0.0 INTRODUCTION

This six-volume series, entitled the Quality Assurance Manual, describes the Air Resources Board's (ARB) Quality Assurance Program. The volumes have been revised and amended to include federal regulations presented in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40 - Protection of the Environment, Part 58, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance (July 1, 1990), hereafter referred to as 40 CFR Part 58. The volumes serve as guidance documents for the operation of quality assurance programs used by the ARB, local districts, and private industry. The volumes are intended for field operators and supervisors; laboratory, data processing, and engineering personnel; and program managers responsible for implementing, designing, and coordinating air quality monitoring projects.

Unless otherwise identified by paragraph heading, the bulk of the procedures in this volume apply to the criteria pollutants. This volume covers the quality assurance overview for criteria pollutants, toxic air pollutants, acid deposition, and meteorological parameters.

Current quality assurance methods and procedures are grouped and presented as follows:

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| Volume I | Quality Assurance Plan |
| Volume II | Standard Operating Procedures for Air Quality Monitoring |
| Volume III | Laboratory Methods and Operations |
| Volume IV | Air Quality Data Processing (not available) |
| Volume V | Audit Procedures Manual |
| Volume VI | Standard Operating Procedures for Stationary Source Emission Monitoring and Testing |

Whereas Volumes II through VI present detailed procedures, Volume I presents the basic overview of the ARB Quality Assurance Program. Each section of Volume I deals with a unique yet interrelated topic. Our intent is to present information in Volume I which will help define and clarify the many issues involved in maintaining an effective quality assurance program. Comments concerning any volume of the series are encouraged and should be submitted to the Quality Assurance Section of the ARB.