ALTERNATIVE METHOD 5 POST-TEST CALIBRATION

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

EPA Method 5 requires the calibration of the metering system after each field use. Because the post-test calibration requires the use of a spirometer or wet test meter, the calibration is often conducted in the laboratory. However, a field calibration procedure is highly desirable for two reasons: (1) it eliminates questions about the possibility of the damage to the metering system occurring during transport and (2) it eliminates travel costs for a retest if the metering system fails the post-test calibration.

The alternative post-test calibration procedure described below is based on the principles of the optional pretest orifice meter coefficient check in Section 4.4.1 of Method 5. Since the orifice meter coefficient check will not detect leakages between the inlet of the metering system and the dry gas meter, the alternative procedure includes two additional steps: (1) a leak check from either the inlet of the sampling train or the inlet of the metering system and (2) a leak check of that portion of the sampling train from the pump to the orifice meter.

PROCEDURE

The alternative to the post-test calibration in Section 5.3.2 of Method 5 is as follows:

After each test run, do the following:

1. Ensure that the metering system has passed the post-test leak-check. If not, conduct a leak-check of the metering system from its inlet.

2. Conduct the leak-check of that portion of the train from the pump to the orifice meter as described in Section 5.6 of Method 5.

3. Calculate Y_{qa} for each test run using the following equation:

$$Y_{qa} = \frac{2}{V_m}\sqrt{\frac{0.0319 T_m}{)H_@(P_b +)\frac{H_{avg}}{13.6})}\frac{29}{M_d}}\ (\sqrt{)H})_{avg}$$

where:

Y_{qa} = dry gas meter calibration check value, dimensionless.
2 = total run time, min.
V_m = total sample volume measured by dry gas meter, dcf.
T_m = absolute average dry gas meter temp., ◦R.
P_b = barometric pressure, in. Hg.
0.0319 = $(29.92/528)(0.75)^2$ (in. Hg/◦/R) cfm^2.
$)h_{avg}$ = average orifice meter differential, in. H_20.
)H@ = orifice meter calibration coefficient, in. H_2O.
M_d = dry molecular weight of stack gas, lb/lb-mole.
29 = dry molecular weight of air, lb/lb-mole.
13.6 = specific gravity of mercury.

After each test run series, do the following:

4. Average the three or more Y_{qa}'s obtained from the test run series and compare this average Y_{qa} with the dry gas meter calibration factor, Y. The average Y_{qa} must be within 5 percent of Y.

5. If the average Y_{qa} does not meet the $\pm$5 percent criterion, recalibrate the meter over the full range of orifice settings, as detailed in Section 5.3.1 of Method 5. Then follow the procedure in Section 5.3.3 of Method 5.

REFERENCE

1. Roger T. Shigehara, P.G. Royals, and E.W. Steward, "Alternative Method 5 Post-Test Calibration", Entropy, Inc, contained in the EMTIC TSAR Library.