Monitoring Quick Guide 11

Version 4 issued December 2012

RM-QG11 - MCERTS: manual stack emissions monitoring

1. Introduction

The MCERTS scheme for manual stack emission monitoring sets our standards for carrying out periodic monitoring. It is split into two components: the *accreditation* of monitoring organisations and the *certification* of personnel.

The term *'organisation'* includes both *commercial* 'test houses' and operators' *in-house* monitoring teams.

2. How it works

For installations regulated by us, any stack emission monitoring carried out for regulatory purposes must meet the MCERTS requirements. This includes:

- determining compliance with regulatory emission limit values
- calibration of continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMs), including quality assurance work under EN 14181
- acceptance trials on new pollution-abatement plant or alternative fuels
- determining emissions as part of an application for a permit to operate

Any commercial stack emission monitoring organisation performing monitoring for regulatory purposes must be accredited by UKAS to ISO 17025 for the MCERTS performance standard for organisations. This includes the requirement to use MCERTS certified personnel. Simpler arrangements for operators' in-house monitoring teams are outlined in Section 3.

The MCERTS scheme defines the following levels:

- Trainee
- Level 1 (Technician)
- Level 2 (Team Leader)

Level 2 personnel must obtain technical endorsements relevant to the methods they use. The competency scheme has the following technical endorsements:

- TE1 Particulate monitoring by isokinetic techniques
- TE2 Multiphase sampling techniques
- TE3 Gases/vapours by manual techniques
- TE4 Gases/vapours by instrumental techniques

All stack emission monitoring teams (commercial and in-house) must be led on site by a person with Level 2 certification with the appropriate technical endorsement(s).

Stack emission monitoring organisations must produce a site-specific protocol (SSP) before carrying out the monitoring. The SSP and the final monitoring report must meet the MCERTS requirements, and be authorised by a Level 2 person with the appropriate technical endorsement(s).

3. Further information

For in-house monitoring teams personnel must have the appropriate MCERTS certification with at least one person having Level 2 certification and the relevant technical endorsement(s) for the work being done. MCERTS accreditation of the organisation is recommended but is not a requirement in most cases.

The personnel competency standard includes minimum requirements for the on-site experience of monitoring personnel. Individuals who do not have the opportunity to meet the required experience criteria, can still be certified but the scope of certification will be limited to their specific sites.

Personnel with certification limited by site may obtain a limited technical endorsement for TE3 and TE4, referred to as LTE3 and LTE4.

4. How to check if personnel and organisations have MCERTS

Personnel awarded MCERTS certification receive an identity card with details of their MCERTS competency and expiry date of their certification. This must be shown on request to clients and regulators. Queries about an individual's MCERTS certification can also be answered by contacting Sira (who run the scheme for us) at mcerts@sira.co.uk.

Organisations with MCERTS accreditation are listed on the UKAS website. The simplest way to access this is to go to www.mcerts.net and click on "Emissions monitoring from chimney stacks" and then follow the instructions under "Find an accredited laboratory". Each laboratory has a *schedule of accreditation*, which lists the methods they are accredited to use.

5. Further Information

MCERTS for manual stack emission monitoring, performance standard for organisations (available from www.mcerts.net)

MCERTS for manual stack emission monitoring, personnel competency standard (available from www.mcerts.net)

6. Feedback

Any comments or suggested improvements to this note should be e-mailed to Rupert Standring at rupert.standring@environment-agency.gov.uk .

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