



Standard Practice for Competence of Air Emission Testing Bodies¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This Practice specifies the general requirements for the competence to carry out sampling and analysis for air emissions tests of stationary sources. It covers testing and calibration performed using standard methods, non-standard methods and methods developed by the AETB.

1.2 This Practice is applicable to all bodies engaged in air emission testing regardless of the number of personnel or the scope of testing activities. When an AETB does not undertake one or more of the activities covered by the Practice such as developing test methods, the requirements of those clauses do not apply.

1.3 The notes given provide clarification of text, examples, and guidance. The notes do not contain requirements and do not form an integral part of this Practice.

NOTE 1—ISO/IEC 17025:2005 has been considered when elaborating this Practice. Several, but not all, statements of this Practice are consistent with ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

NOTE 2—This Practice is a specification for competence. It does not address accreditation or any activities specific to accreditation such as on-site inspections/audits by external assessors or proficiency testing.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D1356 [Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres](#)

2.2 Other Documents

[NCSL RP-1 Establishment and Adjustment of Calibration Intervals](#)²

[ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories](#)³

¹ This Practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.03 on Ambient Atmospheres and Source Emissions.

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² NCSL International, Wilderness Place, Suite 107, Boulder, Colorado 80301-5404.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

3. Terminology

3.1 For air quality and other terms not defined here in, please refer to ASTM D1356-15 Standard Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres.

3.2 Terms Specific to this Standard:

3.2.1 *air emission testing*—the direct testing of emissions to the atmosphere from stationary sources by sampling, measurement, and analysis including determination of the relative accuracy and QA/QC auditing of continuous monitoring systems. This definition excludes fuel sampling, visible emission evaluations, and daily operation and maintenance of continuous monitoring systems.

3.2.2 *air emission testing body (AETB)*—a company or other entity that conducts Air Emission Testing.

3.2.3 *approved test protocol*—a statement, approved by the relevant regulatory authority or other receiving party, of the objectives of a specific test program and the test methods (and deviations) to be used to achieve those objectives. Also referred to as “sampling plan” or “test plan.”

3.2.4 *competence*—for an AETB, competence is the ability to consistently produce acceptable data of known and documented quality. An AETB shall be considered competent if it has in place and continually operates under a Quality System meeting the requirements of this Practice.

3.2.5 *contract*—any oral or written agreement between an AETB and a customer to provide services to that customer.

3.2.6 *external qualification exam*—a Qualification Exam meeting the requirements of 6.2.3.4 and administered by an Independent Proctor. In addition, an External Qualification Exam must be: (1) approved with regard to content and format by a Qualification Exam Provider. This test will be administered in accordance with rules established by the Provider; and (2) administered and scored by an Independent Proctor.

3.2.7 *independent proctor*—a person not employed by or associated with the AETB who oversees the administration of the External Qualification Exam according to the rules established by the qualification exam provider.

3.2.8 *internal qualification exam*—a Qualification Exam meeting the requirements of 6.2.3.4 and administered by the AETB.

3.2.9 *known and documented quality*—for the purposes of this Practice, data will be of known and documented quality if