Environmental Protection Agency

§ 53.63 Test procedure: Wind tunnel inlet aspiration test.

(a) Overview. This test applies to a candidate sampler which differs from the reference method sampler only with respect to the design of the inlet. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the aspiration of a Class II candidate sampler is such that it representatively extracts an ambient aerosol at elevated wind speeds. This wind tunnel test uses a single-sized, liquid aerosol in conjunction with wind speeds of 2 km/hr and 24 km/hr. The test atmosphere concentration is alternately measured with the candidate sampler and a reference method device, both of which are operated without the 2.5-micron fractionation device installed. The test conditions are summarized in table F–2 of this subpart (under the heading of “wind tunnel inlet aspiration test”). The candidate sampler must meet or exceed the acceptance criteria given in table F–1 of this subpart.

(b) Technical definition. Relative aspiration is the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of the aerosol mass concentration measured by the candidate sampler to that measured by a reference method sampler.

(c) Facilities and equipment required. The facilities and equipment are identical to those required for the full wind tunnel test (§53.62(c)).

(d) Setup. The candidate and reference method samplers shall be operated with the PM$_{2.5}$ fractionation device removed from the flow path throughout this entire test procedure. Modifications to accommodate this requirement shall be limited to removal of the fractionator and insertion of the filter holder directly into the downtube of the inlet.

(e) Test procedure—(1) Establish the wind tunnel test atmosphere. Follow the procedures in §53.62(d)(1) through (d)(4) to establish a test atmosphere for one of the two wind speeds specified in table F–2 of this subpart.

The candidate method passes the wind tunnel effectiveness test if the $R_c$ value for each wind speed meets the specification in table F–1 of this subpart for each of the three particle size distributions.
(2) Measure the aerosol concentration with the reference sampler. (i) Install the reference sampler (or portion thereof) in the wind tunnel with the sampler inlet opening centered in the sampling zone. To meet the maximum blockage limit of §53.62(c)(1) or for convenience, part of the test sampler may be positioned external to the wind tunnel provided that neither the geometry of the sampler nor the length of any connecting tube or pipe is altered. Collect particles for a time period such that the relative error of the measured concentration is less than 5.0 percent.

(ii) Determine the quantity of material collected with the reference method sampler using a calibrated fluorometer. Calculate and record the mass concentration as:

\[
C_{\text{ref}(i)} = \frac{M_{\text{ref}(i)}}{Q(i) \times t(i)}
\]

where:
- \( i \) = replicate number;
- \( M_{\text{ref}} \) = mass of material collected with the reference method sampler;
- \( Q \) = reference method sampler volumetric flow rate; and
- \( t \) = sampling time.

(iii) Remove the reference method sampler from the tunnel.

(3) Measure the aerosol concentration with the candidate sampler. (i) Install the candidate sampler (or portion thereof) in the wind tunnel with the sampler inlet centered in the sampling zone. To meet the maximum blockage limit of §53.62(c)(1) or for convenience, part of the test sampler may be positioned external to the wind tunnel provided that neither the geometry of the sampler nor the length of any connecting tube or pipe is altered. Collect particles for a time period such that the relative error of the measured concentration is less than 5.0 percent.

(ii) Determine the quantity of material collected with the candidate sampler using a calibrated fluorometer. Calculate and record the mass concentration as:

\[
C_{\text{cand}(i)} = \frac{M_{\text{cand}(i)}}{Q(i) \times t(i)}
\]

\[
A(i) = \frac{C_{\text{cand}(i)}}{C_{\text{ref}(i)} + C_{\text{ref}((i+1)\mod n)} \times \frac{1}{2}}
\]

where:
- \( i \) = replicate number.

(ii) Calculate and record the mean aspiration ratio as:

\[
\bar{A} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} A(i)}{n}
\]

where:
- \( i \) = replicate number; and
- \( n \) = total number of measurements of aspiration ratio.

(iii) Precision of the aspiration ratio.

(A) Calculate and record the precision of the aspiration ratio measurements as the coefficient of variation as:
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\[ CV_A = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} A_i \right)^2} / \bar{A}_i \times 100\% \]

where:
- \( i \) = replicate number; and
- \( n \) = total number of measurements of aspiration ratio.

(B) If the value of \( CV_A \) exceeds 10 percent, the entire test procedure must be repeated.

(f) Evaluation of test results. The candidate method passes the inlet aspiration test if all values of \( A \) meet the acceptance criteria specified in table F–1 of this subpart.

§ 53.64 Test procedure: Static fractionator test.

(a) Overview. This test applies only to those candidate methods in which the sole deviation from the reference method is in the design of the 2.5-micron fractionation device. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the fractionation characteristics of the candidate fractionator are acceptably similar to that of the reference method sampler. It is recognized that various methodologies exist for quantifying fractionator effectiveness. The following commonly-employed techniques are provided for purposes of guidance. Other methodologies for determining sampler effectiveness may be used contingent upon prior approval by the Agency.

(1) Wash-off method. Effectiveness is determined by measuring the aerosol mass deposited on the candidate sampler’s after filter versus the aerosol mass deposited in the fractionator. The material deposited in the fractionator is recovered by washing its internal surfaces. For these wash-off tests, a fluorometer must be used to quantitate the aerosol concentration. Note that if this technique is chosen, the candidate must be reloaded with coarse aerosol prior to each test point when reevaluating the curve as specified in the loading test.

(2) Static chamber method. Effectiveness is determined by measuring the aerosol mass concentration sampled by the candidate sampler’s after filter versus that which exists in a static chamber. A calibrated fluorometer shall be used to quantify the collected aerosol deposits. The aerosol concentration is calculated as the measured aerosol mass divided by the sampled air volume.

(3) Divided flow method. Effectiveness is determined by comparing the aerosol concentration upstream of the candidate sampler’s fractionator versus that concentration which exists downstream of the candidate fractionator. These tests may utilize either fluorometry or a real-time aerosol measuring device to determine the aerosol concentration.

(b) Technical definition. Effectiveness under static conditions is the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of the mass concentration of particles of a given size reaching the sampler filter to the mass concentration of particles of the same size existing in the test atmosphere.

(c) Facilities and equipment required—

(1) Aerosol generation. Methods for generating aerosols shall be identical to those prescribed in § 53.62(c)(2).

(2) Particle delivery system. Acceptable apparatus for delivering the generated aerosols to the candidate fractionator is dependent on the effectiveness measurement methodology and shall be defined as follows:

(i) Wash-off test apparatus. The aerosol may be delivered to the candidate fractionator through direct piping (with or without an in-line mixing chamber). Validation particle size and quality shall be conducted at a point directly upstream of the fractionator.

(ii) Static chamber test apparatus. The aerosol shall be introduced into a chamber and sufficiently mixed such that the aerosol concentration within the chamber is spatially uniform. The chamber must be of sufficient size to house at least four total filter samplers in addition to the inlet of the candidate method size fractionator. Validation of particle size and quality shall be conducted on representative aerosol samples extracted from the chamber.

(iii) Divided flow test apparatus. The apparatus shall allow the aerosol concentration to be measured upstream and downstream of the fractionator.