

# A Brief Introduction to EN 14181

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## What is EN 14181?

EN 14181 is a new standard that details quality assurance procedures required to assure emissions monitoring systems can meet the measurement uncertainty requirements of legislation. Its full title is:

### **EN 14181 Stationary source emissions – Quality assurance of automated measuring systems**

Where automated measuring system (AMS) is an alternative for the established phrase Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS). It was approved by CEN on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2003, was published in June 2004 and has been gradually introduced since that date.

## Where does it apply?

At the time of writing (Feb 2007) it is required only where the process falls under the L.C.P.D. (Large Combustion Plant Directive - 2001/80/EC) or the W.I.D. (Waste Incineration Directive - 2000/76/EC). It is possible however that this scope could develop in the future.

## What does it mean in practice?

EN 14181 means a culture change for most of Europe. It prescribes methods and acceptance criteria that should be uniform throughout the E.U., whereas previously each state went about these matters in their own way. In many cases the requirements of EN 14181 will be more stringent than those before it. Importantly it introduces fundamental changes in the way that CEMS will be calibrated, operated and maintained.

## What will be the impact on users?

All those involved with emissions monitoring will have to adapt to the new requirements. It will require:

- More consideration as to the suitability of equipment for specific applications.
- More detailed calibration and validation exercises.
- More disciplined operation and maintenance philosophies.
- Above all it will raise the profile of emissions monitoring, insisting that all aspects are dealt with in a detailed, professional and quality assured manner.
- Significantly it will require co-operation between parties, suppliers, operators, test houses and regulators

Ultimately this will add cost to the owner of the systems, but should also result in more reliable systems that produce data of known uncertainty with higher overall reliability levels.

## What are the key issues facing those who need to apply EN 14181?

Clearly all parties must adhere to the new technical requirements and there is much to consider there, but in light of the need for multiple parties to work together, the following must also be considered.

- The formulation of an acceptable commercial agreement between the parties. The agreement will need to be sensible, identifying roles and responsibilities and placing balanced commercial obligations on each party.
- Key to success will be planning, project management and high levels of cooperation. The exercise will be far from simple and will require informed project management.