
**Evaluating the performance of
continuous air monitors —**

**Part 1:
Air monitors based on accumulation
sampling techniques**

*Évaluation de la performance des dispositifs de surveillance de l'air
en continu —*

*Partie 1: Moniteurs d'air basés sur des techniques d'échantillonnage
par accumulation*

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	2
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Symbols	4
5 Measuring principle	6
6 Fixed-media filter monitor	7
6.1 Preliminary note.....	7
6.2 Study of the dynamic behaviour.....	7
6.2.1 General.....	7
6.2.2 Short half-life model of evaluation of the activity concentration.....	8
6.2.3 Long half-life radionuclide activity concentration model of evaluation.....	11
6.2.4 Intermediate half-life radionuclide activity concentration model of evaluation.....	14
6.2.5 Comparison of the three fixed filter models of evaluation.....	15
7 Moving filter monitor	17
7.1 Preliminary note.....	17
7.2 Study of the dynamic behaviour.....	17
7.3 Activity concentration model of evaluation.....	20
8 Evaluation of the characteristic limits	23
8.1 General.....	23
8.2 Fixed media filter model of evaluation.....	24
8.2.1 General.....	24
8.2.2 Definition of the model.....	24
8.2.3 Standard uncertainty.....	24
8.2.4 Decision threshold.....	25
8.2.5 Detection limit.....	26
8.2.6 Limits of the coverage interval.....	26
8.3 Moving filter model of evaluation.....	28
8.3.1 Definition of the measurand.....	28
8.3.2 Standard uncertainty.....	28
8.3.3 Decision threshold.....	29
8.3.4 Detection limit.....	29
8.3.5 Limits of the coverage interval.....	29
9 Alarms setup, minimum detectable activity concentration and PME	29
Annex A (informative) Numerical example of gross beta emitting activity concentration measurement on fixed filter	32
Annex B (informative) Numerical example of gross alpha emitting activity concentration measurement on moving filter	37
Annex C (informative) Numerical example of iodine 131 activity concentration gamma spectrometry measurement on fixed charcoal cartridge	41
Annex D (informative) Determination of the detectable activity concentration and its associated response time by the use a linear regression and statistical test method	44
Bibliography	52

Foreword

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A list of all the parts in the ISO/TR 22930 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Sampling and monitoring of airborne activity concentration in workplaces are critically important for maintaining worker safety at facilities where dispersible radioactive substances are used.

The first indication of a radioactive substance dispersion event comes, in general, from a continuous air monitor (CAM) and its associated alarm levels. In general, the response of a CAM is delayed in time compared to the actual situation of release.

The knowledge of a few factors is needed to interpret the response of a CAM and to select the appropriate CAM type and its operating parameters.

The role of the radiation protection officer is to select the appropriate CAM, to determine when effective release of radioactive substances occurs, to interpret measurement results and to take corrective action appropriate to the severity of the release.

The objective of ISO/TR 22930 series is to assist radiation protection officer in evaluating the performance of a CAM.

ISO/TR 22930 series describes the factors and operating parameters and how they influence the response of a CAM.

This document deals with monitoring systems based on accumulation sampling techniques.

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Evaluating the performance of continuous air monitors —

Part 1:

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1 Scope

The use of a continuous air monitor (CAM) is mainly motivated by the need to be alerted quickly and in the most accurate way possible with an acceptable false alarm rate when a significant activity concentration value is exceeded, in order to take appropriate measures to reduce exposure of those involved.

The performance of this CAM does not only depend on the metrological aspect characterized by the decision threshold, the limit of detection and the measurement uncertainties but also on its dynamic capacity characterized by its response time as well as on the minimum detectable activity concentration corresponding to an acceptable false alarm rate.

The ideal performance is to have a minimum detectable activity concentration as low as possible associated with a very short response time, but unfortunately these two criteria are in opposition. It is therefore important that the CAM and the choice of the adjustment parameters and the alarm levels be in line with the radiation protection objectives.

The knowledge of a few factors is needed to interpret the response of a CAM and to select the appropriate CAM type and its operating parameters.

Among those factors, it is important to know the half-lives of the radionuclides involved, in order to select the appropriate detection system and its associated model of evaluation.

CAM using filter media accumulation sampling techniques are usually of two types:

- a) fixed filter;
- b) moving filter.

This document first describes the theory of operation of each CAM type i.e.:

- the different models of evaluation considering short or long radionuclides half-lives values,
- the dynamic behaviour and the determination of the response time.

In most case, CAM is used when radionuclides with important radiotoxicities are involved (small value of ALI). Those radionuclides have usually long half-life values.

Then the determination of the characteristic limits (decision threshold, detection limit, limits of the coverage interval) of a CAM is described by the use of long half-life models of evaluation.

Finally, a possible way to determine the minimum detectable activity concentration and the alarms setup is pointed out.

The annexes of this document show actual examples of CAM data which illustrate how to quantify the CAM performance by determining the response time, the characteristics limits, the minimum detectable activity concentration and the alarms setup.