8.2 What are the on-going QA test requirements in Part 75 for units reporting emissions data year-round?

Year-round reporting of emissions data is required for all Acid Rain Program units and for units in the CAIR annual SO2 and NOx programs. For CAIR NOx units that are subject only to the ozone season program, year-round reporting is optional (see Section 8.5, below). For CEMS, the on-going QA test requirements for year-round reporters are summarized in Table 17. Table 17 shows that routine QA testing of CEMS is required at three basic frequencies:

- Daily;
- Quarterly; and
- Semiannual/Annual.

Calibration error checks of all monitors and interference checks of flow monitors are required daily. Linearity checks of gas monitors, flow-to-load ratio tests, and leak checks of DP-type flow monitors are required quarterly. RATAs are required either semiannually or annually, depending on the results of the tests (see Section 8.6, below).

For Appendix D fuel flowmeters, the basic frequency for the required accuracy tests is annual. For Appendix E systems, NOx emission testing is required once every five years, in order to develop new correlation curves.

Table 17: On-Going QA Test Requirements for Year-Round Reporters

Perform this type of QA test....	On these continuous monitoring systems....	At this frequency…	With these qualifications and exceptions....
Calibration error test	Gas and flow monitors	Daily	• Calibrations are not required when the unit is not in operation.
Interference check	Flow monitors	Daily	• Check is not required when the unit is not in operation.
Linearity check	Gas monitors	Quarterly	• Required only in "QA operating quarters"[a] and only on the range(s) used during the quarter---but no less than once a year • 168 operating hour grace period available • Not required if SO_2 or NO_x span is $\leq$ 30 ppm
Flow-to-load ratio or gross heat rate test	Flow monitors	Quarterly	• Required only in "QA operating quarters" • Non load-based units are exempted • Complex configurations may be exempted by petition under §75.66
Leak check	Differential pressure-type flow monitors	Quarterly	• Required only in QA operating quarters • 168 operating hour grace period available
RATA and Bias test	Gas and flow monitors (Bias test applies to SO_2, NO_x, and flow monitoring systems, only)	Semiannual or Annual[b]	• Not required for SO_2 monitors if the unit exclusively burns very low sulfur fuel, or burns higher-sulfur fuel for $\leq$ 480 hours per year • 720 operating hour grace period available • For Hg monitoring systems, the RATA frequency is always annual
Flowmeter Accuracy test	Fuel flowmeter systems	Once every four "fuel flowmeter QA operating quarters"[c]	• The optional "fuel flow-to-load ratio" or "gross heat rate" test in Appendix D, section 2.1.7 may be used to extend the interval between flowmeter accuracy tests to up to 20 quarters

Perform this type of QA test....	On these continuous monitoring systems....	At this frequency....	With these qualifications and exceptions....
Primary element visual inspection	Orifice, nozzle, and venturi fuel flowmeters that are certified by design, according to AGA Report No. 3	Once every 3 years (12 calendar quarters)	• The optional fuel flow-to-load ratio or gross heat rate test may be used to extend the interval between visual inspections to up to 20 quarters
NO_x emission rate testing	Appendix E systems	Once every 5 years (20 calendar quarters)	----------

[a] That is, a quarter with at least 168 hours of unit operation

[b] Depending on the % relative accuracy obtained in the previous test, the next RATA is required either "semiannually" (within 2 QA operating quarters) or "annually" (within 4 QA operating quarters), not to exceed 8 calendar quarters plus a grace period between successive tests.

[c] That is, a quarter in which the fuel measured by the flowmeter is combusted for at least 168 hours.