

Question 9.6

Topic: Rounding Conventions for NO_x and SO₂ Span

Question: When a particular utility measured its NO_x emissions, the concentration was always between 70 ppm and 247 ppm. The company elects to use 247 ppm as the maximum potential concentration (MPC), and multiplies it by 1.25 to give a span value of 309 ppm. Appendix A would appear to require the span concentration to be rounded up to 400 ppm.

However, the monitor range is 375 ppm. May the span value be rounded upward to the next highest multiple of 10 ppm (310 ppm) instead of the next highest multiple of 100 ppm?

Answer: Yes. The original Part 75 rule had required the span concentration to be rounded upward to the next highest multiple of 100 ppm, to obtain the span value. However, this was based upon the assumption that the MPC would be at least 400 ppm. Because this is not always true, subsequent revisions to Part 75 have clarified that when the span concentration is ≤ 500 ppm, rounding upward to the next highest multiple of 10 ppm is acceptable.

References: Appendix A, Sections 2.1.1.3 and 2.1.2.3

History: First published in March 1995, Update #5; revised in October 1999 Revised Manual; revised in 2013 Manual