

Question 7.3

Topic: Reference Method and Backup Monitoring

Question: Please clarify the rule requirements concerning the use of reference method backup monitors and certified backup monitors.

Answer: The owner or operator has three principal options for obtaining data when a primary monitor is not operating: (1) the use of an applicable reference method backup monitor; (2) the use of a certified redundant backup monitor; or (3) the use of a non-redundant backup monitor.

For a discussion of the use of reference method backup systems, see Section 19 of this Policy Manual. For a discussion of redundant backup monitors, see Question 7.10. For a discussion of non-redundant backup monitors, see Question 7.1.

In general, EPA does not consider routine maintenance activities identified in the QA/QC Plan for the monitor to be activities that require recertification. Additional guidance regarding the types of changes to a monitoring system that necessitate recertification is provided in Section 12 of this Policy Manual. Whenever it is unclear whether a specific change necessitates recertification testing, contact the appropriate EPA Regional Office for clarification.

References: § 75.20(b) and (d)

History: First published in Original March 1993 Policy Manual; revised in October 1999 Revised Manual; revised in 2013 Manual