

Question 9.2

Topic: Daily Calibration Test -- Zero-level Check

Question: Must a zero air material be used to perform the zero check required as part of the daily calibration test under Part 75?

Answer: Qualified no. A utility is only required to use a calibration gas that provides a zero-level *concentration* as specified by 40 CFR Part 75, Appendix A, Sections 5.2.1 and 6.3.1. A zero-level concentration can be anywhere from 0.0% to 20.0% of the span value. Therefore, a zero air material is not required unless the selected zero-level concentration is 0.0% of span.

When the selected zero-level concentration is 0.0% of span, a zero air material that meets the definition in § 72.2 must be used (see Question 9.1). Note that under the revised definition, a zero air material may be an EPA Protocol gas mixture that does not contain the component being zeroed. For instance, a Protocol gas containing 200 ppm NO in N₂ could be used to provide a zero-level concentration for an SO₂ pollutant concentration monitor.

References: Appendix A, Sections 5.1.6, 5.2.1, and 6.3.1; Appendix B, Section 2.1.1

History: First published in May 1993, Update #1; revised July 1995, Update #6; revised in October 1999 Revised Manual