

Monitoring Quick Guide 8

Issued October 2016

RM-QG8 Selecting a MCERTS accredited laboratory for stack emissions monitoring or EN 14181

1. Scope

This note describes a procedure to verify the accreditation status of test laboratories, in order that regulatory officers of the Environment Agency, operators of regulated installations and other interested parties can determine whether a test laboratory is appropriately qualified for a particular monitoring task.

2. Practical Guidance

2.1 Background

Permits for operators typically specify that regulatory monitoring must be performed to the appropriate MCERTS performance standards. If an operator is commissioning an external test laboratory to measure the emissions from industrial stacks and ducts – or if the monitoring is performed to meet the requirements of BS EN 14181 – then the test laboratory must be accredited to BS EN ISO/IEC 17025 for the MCERTS performance standards for manual stack emissions monitoring, and to the applicable methods specified in TGN M2. Furthermore, if the test laboratory is performing work for EN 14181, then the test laboratory must also be accredited to the applicable parts of this standard.

However, there have been cases where test laboratories have either bid for work, or even carried out work, when the test laboratory was not accredited for the required methods specified in TGN M2. As a worst case, this can lead to:

- The Environment Agency requiring the operator to repeat the monitoring.
- Suspension of the test laboratory's accreditation.

2.2 Procedure for verifying the accreditation status of a test laboratory

The United Kingdom Accreditation Service, UKAS, has an up-to-date list of all accredited laboratories on its website. The scope of accreditation for each test laboratory will state the following:

- The methods specified in TGN M2 which are accredited under the MCERTS scheme for manual stack-emissions monitoring
- Whether the test-laboratory is additionally accredited to perform the applicable parts of QAL2 and AST tests required by EN 14181

You can search for MCERTS accredited test laboratories and view their accreditation status on-line, as follows:

Step 1

The general UKAS website address is www.ukas.org, whilst the search facility for test laboratories is at <http://www.ukas.org/testing/singlesearch.asp>. This address produces the following menu; type MCERTS or EN 14181 in the *Type in product or test type you want (3 characters minimum)*. The following example shows a search for MCERTS-accredited test-laboratories.

Welcome to the UKAS testing laboratory website
Single Test Search

Type in the product or type of test wanted (using a minimum of three characters, not case sensitive) in the first box below. The website uses your search string to select from a directory of keywords. Many keywords have alternative hidden 'nicknames' to enhance the search function.

Then choose the type of laboratory from the pull-down menu.

Then type in the first part of your postcode in the bottom box for results listed in distance from you.

If you want more than one test, or prefer to use the directory search facility, [click here](#).

Tips for searching

- Keep your search string to no more than about 6 characters (max 15)
- You may be able to find some tests by using an associated Standard. Type only the Standard's number without spaces - eg: 140 or bsenisof40 (not bs en iso 140-3 : 1995)
- To search for pH, type ph?

Testing Laboratory Single Search

Type in product or test type you want (3 characters minimum)

Choose type of laboratory

All laboratories

Type in your postcode (not case sensitive) or the first part of your postcode (eg, TW13) for results sorted by distance from you.

RESET SEARCH

Testing Laboratory Single Search

Type in product or test type you want (3 characters minimum)

Choose type of laboratory

All laboratories

Type in your postcode (not case sensitive) or the first part of your postcode (eg, TW13) for results sorted by distance from you.

RESET SEARCH

Type 'MCERTS' or '14181' here

Step 2

The following boxes will then appear, depending on whether the search is for 'MCERTS' or '14181'. If the search was for 'MCERTS', then choose the option labelled 'Stack emission sampling'. There will only be one line for the types of test laboratory, if the search is for '14181'

Single Test Search

Single Search Confirm		
You searched for : mcerts		
Laboratory type chosen: All laboratories		
No Postcode Selected		
Please select a test:		
Family	Product	Test
<input type="radio"/> Environmental samples	Soils/ sediments	MCERTS (soils)
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Environmental samples	Stack emissions - sampling	MCERTS
<input type="radio"/> Environmental samples	Water, waste	MCERTS (Water)
<input type="radio"/> Radiation & radiochemistry	MCERTS (Effluents)	Radiochemical Analysis

Choose the option labelled 'Stack emissions - sampling'

Single Test Search

Single Search Confirm		
You searched for : EN 14181		
Laboratory type chosen: All laboratories		
No Postcode Selected		
Please select a test:		
Family	Product	Test
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Environmental samples	Stack emissions - analysis	CEMS

Step 3

This will produce a list of accredited test laboratories in a table like that shown below.

Single Search Result	
Laboratory Detail	
•	0001 First Listed Test Laboratory Address and contact details
•	0002 Second Listed Test Laboratory Address and contact details
•	0003 Third Listed Test Laboratory Address and contact details

The name of the test laboratory will be highlighted in red, which is an active link to more details about the test laboratory. At the top of the details for the test laboratory, there will be a red button labelled 'VIEW FULL SCHEDULE'. Clicking on this button will produce the full accreditation schedule. This schedule is a very important document as it will list the methods in TGN M2 for which the test laboratory is accredited. Within the schedule, there will be an entry in column 2 which says **Sampling of source emissions to atmosphere** whilst in column 3, there will be a statement which says **National and International standards and documented in house procedures to meet the requirements of the Environment Agency MCERTS performance standard - manual stack emission monitoring**.

Following this statement in column 3, there will be a list of the accredited methods. If the permit specifies that the operator must monitor specific determinands and the operator wishes to use an external test laboratory, then the methods for these determinands must be listed in the scope of accreditation of the chosen laboratory. If the test laboratory is not accredited, then the operator must either use a laboratory that is suitably accredited, or provide justification (and requiring authorisation from us) to use the unaccredited test laboratory. However, such cases are exceptional.

3. Further Information

3.1 Technical Guidance Notes

- TGN M2 – Monitoring of stack emissions to air
- TGN M20 – Quality assurance of continuous emissions monitoring systems

4. Feedback

Any comments or suggested improvements to this note should be e-mailed to Richard Gould at richard.gould@environment-agency.gov.uk or internally to *Gould, Rick*.

This document is out of date. Withdrawn 15/06/2017