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# Standard Guide for Establishing a Linear Correlation Relationship Between Analyzer and Primary Test Method Results Using Relevant ASTM Standard Practices<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

Operation of a process stream analyzer system typically involves four sequential activities: (1) *Analyzer Calibration*—When an analyzer is initially installed, or after major maintenance has been performed, diagnostic testing will typically be performed to demonstrate that the analyzer meets manufacturer's specifications and historical performance standards. These diagnostic tests may require that the analyzer be adjusted so as to provide predetermined output levels for certain reference materials. (2) *Correlation to Primary Test Method*—For process stream analyzer systems where the application objective is to provide prediction of results from a Primary Test method, once the diagnostic testing is completed, process stream samples will typically be analyzed using both the analyzer system and the corresponding primary test method. A mathematical function will be derived that relates the analyzer output to the primary test method (PTM). The application of this mathematical function to an analyzer output produces a predicted PTM result. (3) *Initial Validation*—Once the relationship between the analyzer output and primary test method results has been established, an initial validation is performed using an independent data set to demonstrate that the predicted PTM results agree with those from the primary test method within the tolerances established from the Correlation activities and with no statistically observable systemic bias. (4) *Continual Validation*—During normal operation of the process analyzer system, quality assurance testing is conducted to demonstrate that the agreement between analyzer and primary test method results during the Initial Validation is maintained. This document provides guidance for item (2) above.

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This guide covers a general methodology to develop and assess the linear relationship between results produced by a total analyzer system versus the results produced by the corresponding primary test method (PTM) that the analyzer system is intended to emulate, using the principles and approaches outlined in relevant ASTM standard practices and guides.

1.2 This guide describes how the statistical methodology of Practice D6708 can be employed to assess agreement between the PTM and analyzer results, and, if necessary, develop linear correlation to further improve the agreement over the complete

operating range of the analyzer. For instances where there is insufficient variation in property level to apply the Practice D6708 multi-level methodology, users are referred to Practice D3764 to perform a level specific bias evaluation. The correlation relationship information obtained in the application of this guide is applicable only to the material type and property range of the materials representative of those used to perform the assessment. Users are cautioned against extrapolation of the relationship beyond the material type and property range being studied.

1.3 This guide applies if the process stream analyzer system and the primary test method are based on the same measurement principle(s), or, if the process stream analyzer system uses a direct and well-understood measurement principle that is similar to the measurement principle of the primary test method. If the process stream analyzer system uses a different measurement technology from the primary test method, provided that the calibration protocol for the direct output of the analyzer does not require use of the PTM, this practice also applies.

<sup>1</sup> This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.25 on Performance Assessment and Validation of Process Stream Analyzer Systems.

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\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

1.4 This guide does not apply if the process stream analyzer system utilizes an indirect or mathematically modeled measurement principle such as chemometric or multivariate analysis techniques where results from PTM are required for the chemometric or multivariate model development. Users should refer to Practices [D8321](#) and [D6122](#) for detailed correlation and model validation procedures for these types of analyzer systems.

NOTE 1—For example, this guide would apply for the comparison of benzene measurements from a mid-infrared process analyzer system based on Test Method [D6277](#) to those obtained using PTM Test Method [D3606](#), a gas chromatography based test method. For each sample, the mid-infrared spectrum is converted into a single analyzer result using methodology (Test Method [D6277](#)) that is independent of the primary test method (Test Method [D3606](#)). However, when the same analyzer uses a multivariate model to correlate the measured mid-infrared spectrum to Test Method [D3606](#) reference values using the methodology of Practice [D8321](#), this guide does not apply. In this case, the direct output of the analyzer is the spectrum, and the conversion of this multivariate output to an analyzer result require results from the primary test method.

1.5 This guide assumes that the analyzer sampling system is fit for use, and both analyzer and lab systems are in statistical control during the execution of the required tasks. Procedures for testing for proper function of the analyzer sampling system are beyond the scope of this guide. For ascertaining whether the systems are in statistical control, refer to Practice [D6299](#) or other technical equivalent documents.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

- [D3606](#) Test Method for Determination of Benzene and Toluene in Spark Ignition Fuels by Gas Chromatography
- [D3764](#) Practice for Validation of the Performance of Process Stream Analyzer Systems
- [D4177](#) Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- [D5191](#) Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products and Liquid Fuels (Mini Method)
- [D6122](#) Practice for Validation of the Performance of Multivariate Online, At-Line, Field and Laboratory Infrared Spectrophotometer, and Raman Spectrometer Based Analyzer Systems
- [D6277](#) Test Method for Determination of Benzene in Spark-Ignition Engine Fuels Using Mid Infrared Spectroscopy

- [D6299](#) Practice for Applying Statistical Quality Assurance and Control Charting Techniques to Evaluate Analytical Measurement System Performance
- [D6624](#) Practice for Determining a Flow-Proportioned Average Property Value (FPAPV) for a Collected Batch of Process Stream Material Using Stream Analyzer Data
- [D6708](#) Practice for Statistical Assessment and Improvement of Expected Agreement Between Two Test Methods that Purport to Measure the Same Property of a Material
- [D7453](#) Practice for Sampling of Petroleum Products for Analysis by Process Stream Analyzers and for Process Stream Analyzer System Validation
- [D7808](#) Practice for Determining the Site Precision of a Process Stream Analyzer on Process Stream Material
- [D8321](#) Practice for Development and Validation of Multivariate Analyses for Use in Predicting Properties of Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants based on Spectroscopic Measurements
- [E1655](#) Practices for Infrared Multivariate Quantitative Analysis

2.2 *American Petroleum Institute Document:*<sup>3</sup>  
[API RP-555](#) Process Analyzers

## 3. Terminology

3.1 All of the terminology as defined in Practices [D3764](#), [D6122](#), and [D6708](#) are adopted for this guide.

### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *primary test method (PTM), n*—the analytical procedure used to generate the reference values against which the analyzer is both calibrated and validated. **D3764**

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—It is not the intent of this guide to define a test method. Within the context of the intended application of this practice, a PTM can be any user-designated test method that the process analyzer system test results are intended to predict.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide is intended to be used in conjunction with Practice [D3764](#) (Case 1) and Practice [D6122](#) (Case 2). Methodology in this guide can be used to determine if a linear correlation can improve the performance of the total analyzer system in terms of its ability to predict the results that the PTM would have been if applied to the same material. This methodology, which is based on the same statistical data treatment as Practice [D6708](#), is used to derive the parameters of the linear relationship and to assess the degree of improvement.

4.2 This guide provides developers or manufacturers of process stream analyzer systems with useful procedures for developing the capability of newly designed systems for industrial applications that require reliable prediction of measurements of a specific property by a primary test method of a flowing component or product.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> Available from American Petroleum Institute (API), 1220 L. St., NW, Washington, DC 20005-4070, <http://www.api.org>.

4.3 This guide provides purchasers of process stream analyzer systems with some reliable options for specifying performance requirements for process stream analyzer systems that are used in applications requiring reliable prediction of measurements of a specific property by a primary test method of a flowing component or product.

4.4 This guide provides the user of a process stream analyzer system with useful information on the work process for establishing the PTM prediction relationship and prediction performance.

4.5 Prediction (correlation) relationship obtained in the application of this guide is applicable only to the material type and property range of the materials used to perform the study. Selection of the property levels and the compositional characteristics of the samples must be suitable for the application of the analyzer system. Users are cautioned against extrapolation of the prediction relationship beyond the material type and property range used to obtain the relationship.

4.6 The degree-of-agreement assessment promoted in this guide is based on the statistical principles articulated in Practice **D6708**, which is purely statistical in nature. No attempt is made in assessing the degree of similarity in the analytical technique between the process analyzer and the PTM; hence, results between the PTM and analyzer unit can be highly correlated, but their measurement principles may be completely different, and may *not* be the principal cause for correlation. Users are therefore cautioned that a high degree of correlation between results does not necessarily imply a high degree of similarity in the measurement principles; nor does it imply a similar degree of agreement can be expected in future measurements. In general, if sample-specific biases are detected, it suggests that the measurement principles may be different, and may affect the degree-of-agreement in future use of the scaling/bias-correction equation. Presence or absence of sample-specific effect can be used as a measure of the robustness of the correlation equation to sample composition or matrix differences.

4.7 Implementation of this guide requires that the process stream analyzer system complies with the following conditions:

4.7.1 Meets the principles set forth in Process Analyzers of API RP-555,

4.7.2 Meets the supplier's recommendation,

4.7.3 Complies with operating conditions specified by the manufacturer,

4.7.4 A predicted PTM algorithm has already been established if necessary, and

4.7.5 Meets applicable quality assurance, data collection and data telemetry protocols.

4.8 After installation or major maintenance, conduct such diagnostic tests as recommended by the manufacturer to demonstrate that the analyzer meets manufacturer's specifications, historical performance levels or both. If necessary, adjust the analyzer system components so as to obtain recommended analyzer output levels for specified reference materials.

4.9 Inspect the entire analyzer system to ensure it is installed properly, is in operating condition, and is properly adjusted after completion of the initial commissioning procedures.

## 5. Analyzer Calibration Adjustments and Diagnostics Tests

5.1 When an analyzer is initially installed or after major maintenance has been performed, diagnostic tests should be conducted to demonstrate that the analyzer meets manufacturer's specifications and historical performance standards. These diagnostic tests may require that the analyzer be adjusted so as to provide predetermined output levels for certain reference materials. Such adjustment may be done in hardware, software or both. This should not be confused with the development of correlation to a PTM, which, is described below.

## 6. Correlation to Primary Test Method

### 6.1 General Approach:

6.1.1 Define the sample set to be used for assessment.

6.1.1.1 The material type and property range for which the analyzer system results are to be assessed versus the primary test method is defined.

6.1.1.2 The recommended sample set should cover the system operating envelope and minimum design criteria for this assessment are:

(1) A minimum of six replicates at each major product/property level combination,

(2) The range of major product/property levels exceed at least four times the published reproducibility of the PTM, and

(3) A minimum of 30 total samples (after excluding outlier samples).

6.1.1.3 Replication at a specific level/product combination can be different batches of production material that are nominally similar in property level (within 1.2 times the ASTM reproducibility of the PTM) and composition.

6.1.2 Obtain site precision information for the analyzer system and PTM for the material type and range defined in accordance with the procedures outlined in Practice **D7808** and **D6299**, respectively. If analyzer system precision cannot be obtained using the methodology in Practice **D7808**, manufacturer's published repeatability precision or site precision from other similar systems may be used as a surrogate. Users are cautioned to ensure consistency in statistical definitions between the manufacturer's published repeatability and the site precision statistic as defined in Practices **D6299** and **D7808**.

## SAMPLING METHOD

6.1.3 *Line Sampling (Preferred)*—Samples meeting the requirements of the sample set design criteria above are taken in accordance with Practice **D3764**, Line Sample Procedure, at the crosscheck sample points of the analyzer system (see **Fig. 1**), after the sample conditioning subsystem, at a frequency of no more than once per day. Avoid taking this sample at the same time of day to ensure any time-of-day related effect is captured in the dataset.

6.1.4 *Automated Composite Sampling*—For installations that have automated composite sampling systems meeting the requirement of Practice **D4177** or **D7453** (or equivalent), and,