

MCERTS Bulletin PC 4 - clarification on scope of indicative ambient particulate monitors (IAPM) and sensors

This bulletin applies to the MCERTS standard, “Performance Standard for Indicative Ambient Particulate Monitors”. It clarifies the scope of use of IAPM.

IAPM are field tested under MCERTS at typical ambient particulate concentrations. Therefore, the scope of certification is limited to the composition and magnitude that the sensors experience during field testing. Typically, this will be an “urban background” location as classified by Local Air Quality Management: Technical Guidance (22) (<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/featured/uk-regions-exc-london-technical-guidance/>).

This usually means that IAPM are not suitable for use in environments where PM_{10} concentrations are above those typical in ambient air, unless demonstrated to perform in these environments. Examples of environments where PM_{10} concentrations may be above those typical in ambient air are fence line monitoring at construction, demolition, waste and industrial sites

Currently, MCERTS IAPM certificates state certification ranges. These ranges will be removed from certificates. The typical measurement range is stated in the guidance as: $PM_{2.5}$ – 0 to $75 \mu g/m^3$, PM_{10} – 0 to $150 \mu g/m^3$ (reference Table 5.2). No range will be stated on the certificate, unless validation evidence for a different performance range to the one stated in the standard is provided to CSA Group.

Certificates will be updated to specify what the measurement conditions were during field testing.

If manufacturers wish to extend the scope of use to other measurement conditions, they can submit evidence, such as field tests at other types of locations. The additional measurement conditions will be stated on the certificate.