

HOWTO:

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Remotely Monitor Your CEM Calibrations

BY BOB JEFFERYS

Adhering to EPA's Acid Rain regulations can be challenging, even if you're confident you're using accurately analyzed, high-quality CEM calibration gases. Apart from EPA's $\pm 2\%$ accuracy mandate, or zero air purity stipulations, is the pressure in any of your online cylinders approaching the minimum allowable 150 psi minimum? Do you have sufficient protocols in inventory, enough to comfortably carry you through typical lead times that can stretch to 30 days? Or do you perhaps have too much inventory on hand, so that you run the risk of a cylinder(s) reaching its expiration date before you can put it on line? Even worse, are you already unintentionally using expired gases?

Most facilities have an "Analyzer Group" whose function, among other duties, is to monitor the CEM calibration gases in use. Literally, someone circulates through the facility with a clipboard, visually checking and recording cylinder pressures. Surely there must be a better way that will not only free up personnel to attend to other duties, but also ensure that none of the afore mentioned scenarios become reality.

Happily, indeed there is a better way. Consider installing a cylinder monitoring system that will ride herd on your CEM calibration gases, alerting you



Air Liquide's CEMStation™ using Scott™ EPA protocol gases, Scott two-stage stainless steel regulators and DATAL ALert™ wireless telemetry system.

when a cylinder nears 150 psi, plus give you the option of reordering protocol gases either manually or automatically. And that's just for starters. A good monitoring system should do this, and much more. How much more? Consider how today's technology allows a smart system to collect, analyze, format and transmit all manner of cylinder gas usage data.

Moreover, a first-rate system will provide trending data that will forecast gas usage, thus allowing you to minimize your on-site protocol cylinder inventory. And speaking of cylinders on-site, a system can also employ GPS technology to pinpoint the precise location of every cylinder at your facility, or across multiple facilities for that matter. This feature alone can go a long way toward eliminating paying cylinder rental on those long-forgotten cylinders stored in that maintenance shack out back.

Air Liquide's DATAL ALert™

DATAL ALert™ can be powered from internal batteries, a solar panel with rechargeable batteries, or from external power.

system, for example, combines cell phone and Internet technologies to provide a cylinder inventory management telemetry solution. It will monitor up to 12 cylinders or manifolds on a single data port, with the option to add additional data collection points either wirelessly or hard-wired. DATAL ALert can easily be accessed via a computer web browser, smartphone or other device such as an iPad.

Cylinder history, usage, trend and forecast data is maintained as part of Air Liquide's cloud computing solution. Pressure alert set points can also be remotely controlled via a computer or even from a smartphone while you're relaxing at home for that matter. A built-in interface with SHOP@airliquide allows you to manually place a reorder, or take a labor saving "hands-off" approach and let Air Liquide automatically replenish your gas supply.

Air Liquide maintains a staff of technical gas and equipment experts who provide innovative solutions to all manner of equipment or gas-related issues. Obtain more information about Air Liquide's DATAL ALert system by calling 800-654-2737 toll-free or visiting ALspecialtygases.com.

