

Particle Number Counter Calibration Procedure

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1 Introduction

Condensation of supersaturated vapors has been used for more than a century to grow small aerosol particles to sizes that can be detected optically. Instruments that use condensation to detect particles can be divided into two categories:

- Expansion-type instruments (including the “Aitken” dust counters and the “Pollak” photoelectric nucleus counters).
- Steady-flow condensation particle number counters (PNC).

The second category of instruments can be further subdivided according to the approach used to produce the saturated vapour:

- Forced convection heat transfer
- Mixing warm and cool vapour streams, or mixing two vapours that subsequently undergo multi-component condensation
- Segmented thermal diffusion

The majority of modern condensation PNCs are of the forced convection heat transfer type and only this type of PNC will be considered here. Further information on the historical development and performance of all types of condensation PNC can be found in the review produced by McMurry (2000)¹.

2 Principle of Operation

On entering the condensation PNC, particles pass through a saturator where the working fluid evaporates into the gas stream. The flow becomes saturated with vapour of the working fluid before passing into a condenser where supersaturation of the vapour occurs. Under this condition the vapour condenses onto the particles to form droplets larger in diameter than the original particles. The droplets pass through a laser on leaving the condenser, and light scattered by the droplets is collected and focused onto a photodetector. The photodetector converts the light signal to an electrical pulse that is recorded as a particle count.

The optimal working fluid for an instrument of this type requires a vapour pressure at typical ambient temperature (25 – 30°C) that is large enough to grow particles in the condenser to a size that can easily be detected optically (0.5 – 15 µm), yet not so large that particles would be lost by sedimentation or impaction. Vapour diffusivity, which determines the rate of vapour depletion to the condenser walls, is also an important consideration. It is desirable to choose a working fluid having a small diffusivity in air, thereby ensuring that particles are exposed to elevated supersaturation as long as possible during flow through the condenser.

The first commercially produced forced convection heat transfer PNC was developed by Agarwal and Sem (1980)². This instrument operated in two modes: single-particle counting mode for concentrations below $\sim 1000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and “photometric” mode for concentrations higher than this. The single particle counting mode involved the detection of forward-scattered white light from a halogen lamp. The photometric mode involved measurement of the d.c. level of light scattered by the aerosol cloud at the exit of the condenser. While the single-particle count mode was considered to provide an absolute measurement of concentration, the photometric mode required an empirical calibration. Butanol was selected as the working fluid because it was found to absorb water more slowly than isopropanol, which was used initially. Absorbed water led to a decrease in the amount of alcohol vapor added to the aerosol, and therefore affected the instrument response.

A number of refinements in the design of continuous flow condensation PNCs have been reported since (e.g. Wilson *et al.* (1983a³, 1983b⁴), Stolzenburg and McMurry (1991)⁵).

3 Draft Regulation No. 83 Requirements

3.1 PNC

The specific requirements for the particle number measurement device (PNC) are listed in Section 1.3.4 of 'Proposal for draft supplement 7 to the 05 series of amendments to Regulation No.83'⁶(this was further amended in Informal document No. GRPE-54-10⁷), and are reproduced here:

1.3.4. The particle concentration measurement device (PNC) shall:

1.3.4.1. operate under full flow operating conditions.

1.3.4.2. have a counting accuracy of ± 10 per cent across the range 100 cm^{-3} to 10^4 cm^{-3} , $\pm 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ across the range 10 cm^{-3} to 100 cm^{-3} and $\pm 2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ below this concentration range against a traceable standard.

1.3.4.3. have a readability of $0.1 \text{ particles cm}^{-3}$.

1.3.4.4. have a linear response to particle concentration over 1 to 10,000 particles cm^{-3} .

1.3.4.5. have a data logging frequency equal to or greater than 0.5 Hz.

1.3.4.6. have a T90 response time over the measured concentration range of less than 15 s.

1.3.4.7. have a data-averaging period of between 1 and 6 s.

1.3.4.8. not make use of an algorithm to correct for or define the counting efficiency, but shall incorporate a coincidence correction function.

1.3.4.9. have inlet efficiencies at particle sizes of 23 nm and 41 nm of 50 per cent (± 12 per cent) and > 90 per cent respectively. These counting efficiencies may be achieved by internal (for example; control of instrument design) or external (for example; size preclassification) means.

3.2 PNC Calibration

The specific requirements for the calibration of the particle number measurement device (PNC) are listed in Section 2.1 of 'Proposal for draft supplement 7 to the 05 series of amendments to Regulation No.83'⁶(this was further amended in Informal document No. GRPE-54-10⁷), and are reproduced here:

2.1. Calibration of the Particle Number Counter

2.1.1. The Technical Service shall ensure the existence of a calibration certificate for the particle number counter demonstrating compliance with a traceable standard within a 12 month period prior to the emissions test.

2.1.2. Calibration shall be traceable to a standard calibration method:

- (i) by comparison of the response of the counter under calibration with that of a calibrated aerosol electrometer when simultaneously sampling electrostatically classified calibration particles, or*
- (ii) by comparison of the response of the counter under calibration with that of a second counter which has been directly calibrated by the above method.*

In the electrometer case, calibration shall be undertaken using at least five standard concentrations spaced as uniformly as possible across the counter's measurement range. Measured concentrations shall be within ± 10 per cent of the standard concentration for each calibration concentration used. The gradient from a linear regression of the two data sets shall be calculated and recorded. Linearity of response is calculated as the square of the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient (R^2) of the two data sets and shall be equal to or greater than 0.97.

In the reference PNC case, calibration shall be undertaken using at least five logarithmically spaced standard concentrations across the counter's measurement range. Measured concentrations shall be within ± 10 per cent of the standard concentration for each calibration concentration used and at least 3 points shall be at concentrations below $1,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. The gradient from a linear regression of the two data sets shall be calculated and recorded. Linearity of response is calculated as the square of the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient (R^2) of the logarithms (to the base 10) of the two data sets and shall be equal to or greater than 0.97.

4 Calibration Methods

The following general points are brought to the attention of the reader:

1. Principles of good calibration practice should be adopted when using any of the methods described below. In particular, users should ensure that any piece of ancillary equipment that is critical to the calibration is itself appropriately calibrated before use.
2. The calibration methods rely upon comparing the response of two pieces of aerosol measurement instrumentation to a common calibration aerosol. One piece of equipment acts as the standard, while the other is the instrument under calibration. The user must ensure that the calibration aerosol pathway to each instrument is configured so that any particle deposition that may occur between particle source and instrument is comparable for both instruments. This is usually achieved by ensuring residence time is comparable in both pathways. It may also be necessary to take into account the pathway within each instrument from the inlet to the measurement volume, if there are significant differences between the instruments. Residence time must be adjusted by varying the length rather than diameter of the pathway, as diffusional deposition is independent of tube diameter for a given volumetric flow rate.
3. Particle deposition can be minimised by utilizing conductive tubing and installing a flow splitter where the calibration aerosol is divided for delivery to each instrument
4. The PMP specification for the particle number counter excludes those with automatic data manipulation functions. However, “coincidence correction” is permitted and should be applied to all PNC-measured data using the formula specified by the PNC manufacturer.

4.1 Primary Calibration

4.1.1 Background

The current calibration method for condensation PNCs is based on the method developed by Liu and Pui (1974)⁸. An electrostatic classifier is used to deliver singly charged, monodisperse calibration aerosols of known size and composition. An aerosol electrometer and the PNC under calibration sample this aerosol in parallel downstream of the classifier. The concentration is obtained from the aerosol electrometer current.

This approach has been adopted as a calibration standard in many laboratories (e.g. Liu *et al.* (1975)⁹, Liu and Kim (1977)¹⁰, Agarwal and Sem (1980)², Marshall and Dickens (2000)¹¹) and in numerous calibration workshops (e.g., Liu *et al.* (1982)¹², Bartz *et al.* (1985)¹³, Wiedensohler *et al.* (1997)¹⁴).

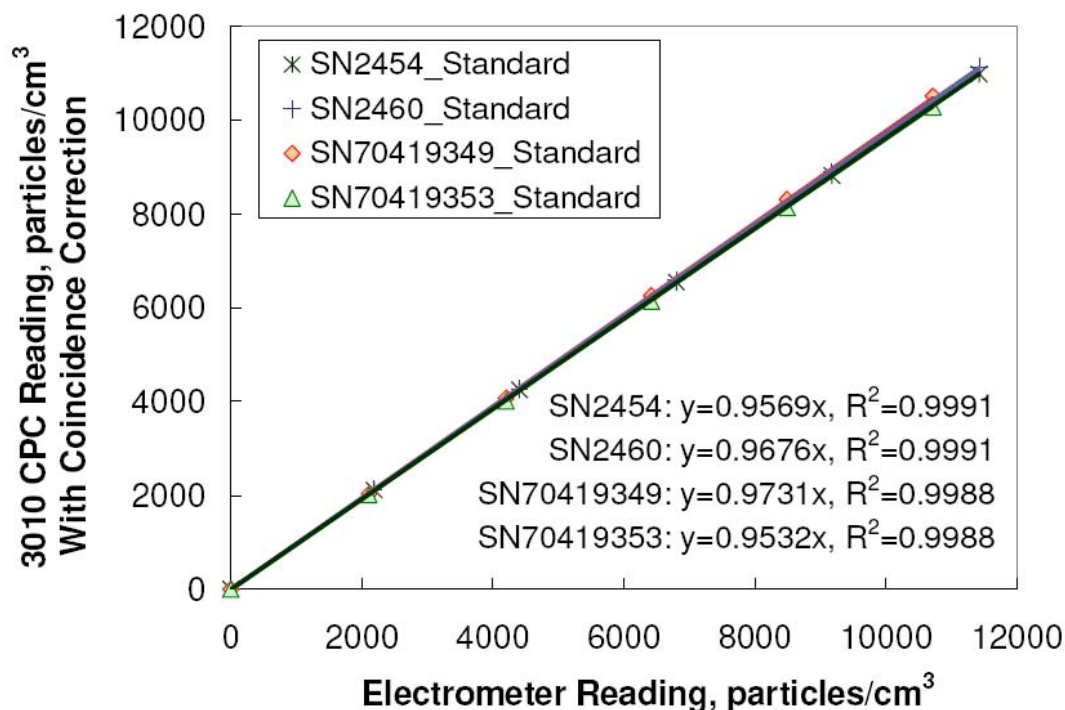
This is the method used by most condensation PNC manufacturers to determine PNC performance, including lower size detection limit, counting efficiency and linearity of response.

Two potential complications with this method have been mooted:

- multiply charged particles having the same mobility as the desired singly charged particles may be included within the aerosol leaving the electrostatic classifier, leading to a more complicated relationship between current and concentration, and
- the detection limit of the aerosol electrometer limits the concentrations at which the calibration can be performed to those greater than $\sim 10^3$ particles cm^{-3} .

These issues have been addressed by Liu *et al.* (2005)¹⁵. They generated a quasi-monodisperse calibration aerosol by electrospraying emery oil and measured the size distribution after electrostatic classification to confirm the absence of any larger multiply charged particles. Emery oil (Emery 3004 or PAO 4 cSt) is a highly branched isoparaffinic polyalphaolefin (1-decene (tetramer) mixed with 1-decene (trimer), hydrogenated), see Annex 1. It provides a source of quasi-monodisperse spherical particles of chemical composition representative of synthetic lube oil particles. Thereafter they calibrated four TSI Model 3010 CPCs against a reference aerosol electrometer over a concentration range from 2,000 to 11,000 particles cm^{-3} . A further data point was recorded for each calibration at a particle concentration of zero. Excellent agreement was achieved between concentrations measured by the PNCs and the aerosol electrometer, with correlation plots yielding gradients in the range from 0.953 to 0.973 and correlation coefficients greater than 0.998. Figure 1 is an example of such a correlation plot. Thus, with correlation plot gradients close to unity, correlation coefficients greater than 0.998 and good agreement at zero particle concentration, it is unnecessary to undertake calibration measurements at particle concentrations less than ~ 1000 particles cm^{-3} , below the detection limit of the reference aerosol electrometer. There is no plausible reason why PNC performance should be any different between zero and $\sim 1,000$ particles cm^{-3} than it is above 1,000 particles cm^{-3} . Liu *et al.* also undertook an analysis of the traceability of critical parameters affecting the performance of the reference aerosol electrometer, viz. flow rate, charge per particle and electrometer current. Osmondson and Liu (2005)¹⁶ have also demonstrated that the collection efficiency of the filter within the aerosol electrometer is greater than 99.999% for 50 nm particles.

Figure 1 **Example of Reference Aerosol Electrometer and CPC Concentration Correlation**
(from Reference 15)



Sakurai *et al.* (2005)¹⁷ describe the adoption of a very similar method using a reference aerosol electrometer as the national Japanese standard against which CPCs are calibrated.

4.1.2 Electrometer Comparison Method

This method is described in detail by Liu *et al.* (2005)¹⁵, which should be referred to for the detailed procedure. Also refer to the Secondary Calibration Procedure in Section 4.2.1 which contains many common features and precautions. The following is a summary of the significant aspects:

Calibration Aerosol

Liu *et al.* used Emery oil droplets generated from an electrospray aerosol generator and subsequently classified in a nano-differential mobility analyzer (nano-DMA) to monodisperse 50 nm droplets (geometric standard deviation (GSD) = 1.04). However, the composition and absolute size of the calibration particles are not critical, providing they meet the following criteria:

- Modal diameter larger than PNC D_{90} but smaller than 100 nm (where PNC D_{90} is the particle diameter that the PNC under calibration counts with 90 % efficiency)

- Monodispersity: $GSD \leq 1.2$.

Particle Concentrations

Liu *et al.* employed 5 equally spaced concentrations between 2,000 and 10,000 particles cm^{-3} . Data were collected every second for ten minutes at each concentration. HEPA-filtered air was also sampled to establish the zero response of both instruments.

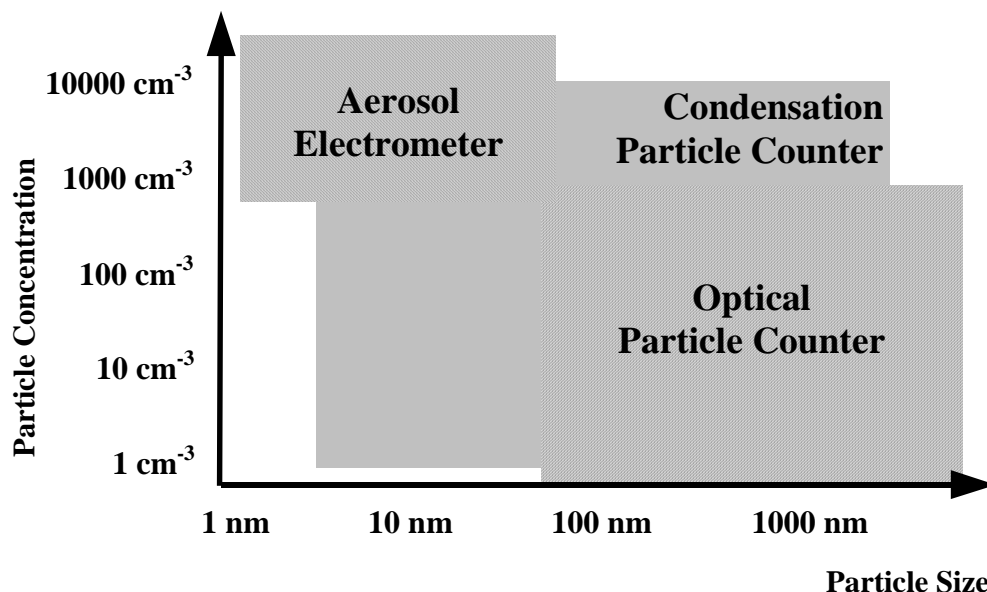
4.1.3 Proposed ISO Method

ISO Technical Committee 24 Sub-Committee 4 has recently proposed a new work item: “Validation and Calibration of Aerosol Particle Number Counters”. This will provide a validation procedure for the derivation and quantification of measurement uncertainty with the aim of realizing internationally recognized primary particle counters. The accompanying calibration procedure will specify the comparison of a particle counter with a particle counter that is traceable to a primary particle counter.

The primary particle counter concept was proposed because different counting methods are used to measure number concentrations (e.g. aerosol electrometer, condensation particle counter, optical particle counter). The results of the counting methods should agree within the specified uncertainties of the measurements by each method. Each counting method is best suited to specific particle characteristics as different methods have smaller uncertainties for different particle characteristics. Each method has its advantages but no single method can be designated as superior. All the methods must be validated to be established as primary methods in metrological terms. By comparing each with the other, their uncertainties can be justified and each method can be acknowledged as a primary method.

The concept is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Concept of Particle Number Concentration Standard



Taking the condensation particle number counter as an example, validation at modest concentrations is achieved by comparison with the aerosol electrometer, whereas validation at low concentrations is achieved by comparison with the optical particle counter using larger particles. Validation is achieved across the whole concentration range by utilizing the method with the better measurement uncertainty in combination with appropriately sized calibration particles.

At the time of writing, the proposal is being balloted for adoption among ISO members so a formal timetable for the completion of the standard is not currently available.

4.2 Secondary Calibration

Any PNC calibrated by the primary calibration method described in Section 4.1 can be utilised as a transfer standard against which the performance of other PNCs can be compared. It is recommended that the transfer standard PNC should be of the same make and model as the PNC under calibration. However, any PNC can be used as long as due regard is given to the D_{50} and D_{90} diameters of the respective models. D_x is the diameter at which the PNC detection efficiency is $x\%$. The transfer standard PNC must have demonstrated a counting accuracy of $\pm 5\%$ across the range 1000 cm^{-3} to 10^4 cm^{-3} from its primary calibration.

This approach has been adopted to calibrate the Golden PNC used in the PMP Light-Duty Interlaboratory Comparison Exercise. A TSI Model 3010 PNC (S/N: 2005) calibrated by TSI according

to the primary method was used as the transfer standard. This has been included by way of an example in Annex 2.

4.2.1 Calibration Aerosol

There are a number of aerosol generation techniques that are capable of producing solid particles in the size range between 50 and 100nm diameter including condensation generators, combustion aerosol generators, electrosprays, nebulisation and hot wires. Any of these methods are suitable for producing calibration aerosols for this procedure. The size distribution required depends on which of the secondary methods is employed:

Method A

a size distribution in the diameter range from 50 to 100 nm from which monodisperse fractions having concentrations from 100 to 10,000 cm⁻³ can be delivered after electrostatic classification

Method B

a size distribution from which a monodisperse 50 nm fraction having a minimum concentration of 10,000 cm⁻³ can be delivered after electrostatic classification.

4.2.2 Procedure

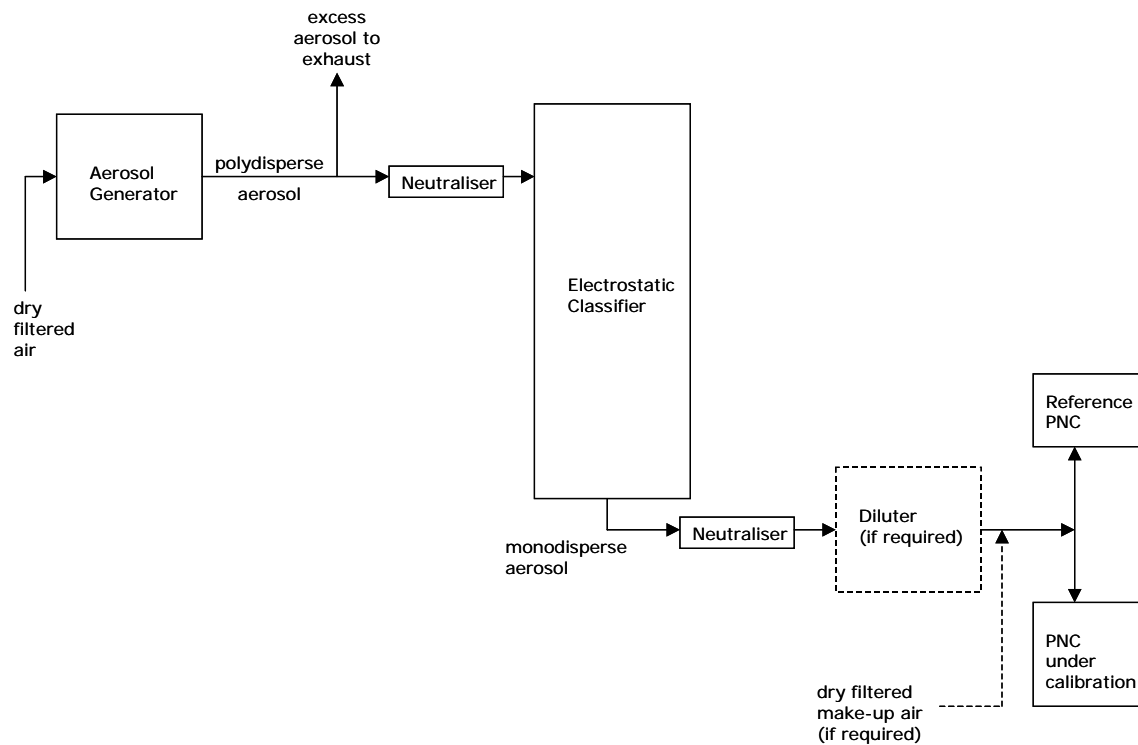
The procedure for performing a PNC calibration against a reference PNC according to the secondary calibration method is described below.

Prepare both PNCs for use:

- Position the PNCs as illustrated in Figure 3, but do not connect them to the electrostatic classifier.
- Switch on, fill with working fluid to the specified level (observe manufacturer's precautions regarding moving the unit when full) and allow the saturator and condenser to reach their specified temperatures
- Apply an external vacuum source if the PNC is not fitted with an internal pump
- Do not proceed unless all indicators show correct instrument status (e.g. temperature, liquid level, temperature, laser intensity etc.).
- Check the inlet flow rate with an appropriate calibrated flow meter (low pressure drop variety recommended, e.g. bubble flow meter). The measured flow should be within $\pm 5\%$ of the nominal value for the model of PNC under test.
- Check that zero concentration is reported when a HEPA filter is attached to the inlet. If concentrations higher than 1cm⁻³ are reported check for, and correct, any leaks in the connection between the HEPA filter and PNC. The PNC requires attention from the

manufacturer if concentrations greater than $1 \text{ particle cm}^{-3}$ are reported after any leaks are eliminated.

Figure 3 Secondary Calibration Method



Connect the PNCs to the remainder of the apparatus (Figure 3):

- Ensure that the particle residence time in the pipe work from the electrostatic classifier to both PNCs is identical (see Section 3.2). Take into account the inlet flow to each PNC and the internal diameter and length of the interconnecting pipe work. Take particular care if the inlet flows into each PNC are different.
- Set the electrostatic classifier flows such that the monodisperse aerosol flow leaving the classifier is sufficient for the total inlet flow of both PNCs. (Provide additional particle-free flow after the classifier if necessary).

Make arrangements to log data from both PNCs simultaneously at the same sampling rate.

Set the electrostatic classifier voltage to zero volts and begin logging PNC data. Both PNCs should report “zero” particle concentration ($< 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$), having already been checked with a HEPA-filtered inlet. If either PNC reports non-zero concentrations, check the apparatus for leaks. It is important that leaks

are eliminated. Any particles leaking into the system downstream of the classifier may be of a size smaller than the D_{90} of the PNC under calibration, which will invalidate the comparison.

Either:

Secondary Method (A)

Generate the calibration aerosol and select a voltage on the electrostatic classifier corresponding to a particle diameter larger than the D_{90} of either PNC (*50 nm suggested*). Continue logging PNC data and ensure that neither PNC is reporting a concentration above its maximum concentration limit. If not, adjust the electrostatic classifier voltage until the reported concentration is below the maximum concentration limit. Thereafter, gradually adjust the electrostatic classifier voltage to vary the concentration delivered to the PNCs without exceeding the classifier voltage corresponding to the maximum particle diameter (*100 nm suggested*). Allow the PNC reported concentration to stabilise at each electrostatic classifier voltage to allow for possible differences in response time between the two PNCs.

Or:

Secondary Method (B)

Generate the calibration aerosol and select the voltage on the electrostatic classifier corresponding to the particle diameter of interest, ensuring that it is larger than the D_{90} of either PNC (*50 nm suggested*). Continue logging PNC data and ensure that neither PNC is reporting a concentration above its maximum concentration limit. If not, adjust the diluter until the reported concentration is below the maximum concentration limit. Thereafter, adjust the diluter to vary the concentration delivered to the PNCs. Allow the PNC reported concentration to stabilise at each electrostatic classifier voltage to allow for possible differences in response time between the two PNCs. Repeat the procedure at electrostatic classifier voltages corresponding to other diameters of interest.

Analyse the resulting data, including the zero concentration point in the dataset, in terms of the correlation between the reported concentrations from both PNCs (as illustrated in Figure 6) with the reference PNC on the x axis and the PNC under calibration on the y axis, to establish the gradient and the linearity (R^2 coefficient).

The linearity of response in terms of the R^2 coefficient must be greater than 0.97, else the PNC under calibration does not respond linearly over the measured concentration range. The gradient of the calibration plot must be within the range from 0.90 to 1.10 (unity signifies complete agreement between the two PNCs).

4.3 Lower Cut-Off Diameter Performance Check

The PNC is required to detect 23 nm particles with an efficiency of 50 ± 12 % (see Section 3.1 and References 6/7). This performance is achieved in the majority of PNCs by controlling the respective temperatures of the saturator and condenser. It is acceptable to assume correct operation, without performing any confirmatory particle detection efficiency measurements, if the PNC indicates that these temperatures are correctly achieved and controlled. However, if the PNC of interest has no such indication then the secondary calibration method should be used to verify its detection efficiency at 23 nm. The procedure is identical to that described in Section 4.2.1 except that only a single concentration and diameter are required. This is achieved by setting the electrostatic classifier voltage to the value corresponding to a diameter of 23 nm. The aerosol used must be of the same material used by the manufacturers for determining the cut-off characteristics of both test and transfer PNCs. PNC detection efficiency is calculated by comparing the concentrations reported by each of the PNCs taking due regard of the detection efficiency of the transfer standard PNC at 23 nm diameter:

$$DE(\%) = \frac{[PNC_{cal}]}{\left([PNC_{std}] \frac{100}{DE_{std}} \right)} \cdot 100$$

where DE is the detection efficiency of the PNC under test (%), $[PNC_{cal}]$ is the particle concentration measured by the PNC under test (cm^{-3}), $[PNC_{std}]$ is the particle concentration measured by the transfer standard PNC (cm^{-3}) and DE_{std} is the detection efficiency of the transfer standard PNC at 23 nm diameter (%).

The DE of the PNC under test must lie within the range 38-62%.

4.4 Equipment Summary

The following equipment is required to calibrate a PNC using the secondary method.

Table 1: Equipment required to calibrate the PNC (secondary method)

Equipment	Purpose
Flow meter, low pressure drop, calibrated (e.g. bubble flow meter)	Measurement of PNC inlet flow
HEPA filter (at least 99.99% efficiency)	Zero concentration checks of PNC
Aerosol generator	Production of calibration particles
Electrostatic Classifier, calibrated	Selection of monodisperse particle fraction from aerosol generator output
Neutraliser(s)	Electrostatic equilibration of particles before and after electrostatic classifier
Source of compressed air, dry, filtered	To supply the; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aerosol generator 2. Diluter (optional) 3. Make up air (optional)
Diluter (optional)	Vary concentration of calibration aerosol
Transfer standard PNC calibrated to primary calibration method	Comparison of measured concentrations

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9th ETH Conference on Combustion Generated Nanoparticles, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich.

6 Annex 1

6.1 Emery Oil Specification

For more information and technical assistance contact:

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP
P.O. Box 4910
The Woodlands, TX 77387-4910
800.852.5531



Synfluid® PAO 4 cSt Highly Branched Isoparaffinic Polyalphaolefin

Application Synfluid® 4 cSt PAO can be used in many industrial and automotive lubricant applications. These include gear oils, compressor oils, engine oils, hydraulic fluids, greases, and other functional fluids.

Handling Maximum temperatures of 85 °C (149 °F) for handling and ambient for long-term storage are recommended. For specific instructions on handling, see MSDS.

Typical Properties

Property	Typical Value
Kinematic Viscosity, cSt @ 212°F, 100°C	3.9
Kinematic Viscosity, cSt @ 104°F, 40°C	16.8
Kinematic Viscosity, cSt @ -40°F, -40°C	2,420
Viscosity Index	124
Pour Point, °F, °C	-100 (-73)
Flash Point (COC), °F, °C	425 (219)
Fire Point (COC), °F, °C	480 (249)
Volatility, Noack, wt%	13.0
Specific Gravity, 60°/60°F, 15.6°/15.6°C	0.8190
Density, lb/gal	6.820
Total Acid Number	---
Bromine Index	<200
Appearance	Clear and Bright
Odor	No Foreign Odor
Color, Pt-Co	<1
Color, Saybolt	+30

MSDS #3332

Revision Date March, 2004

Another quality product from



Before using this product, the user is advised and cautioned to make its own determination and assessment of the safety and suitability of the product for the specific use in question and is further advised against relying on the information contained herein as it may relate to any specific use or application. It is the ultimate responsibility of the user to ensure that the product is suited and the information is applicable to the user's specific application. Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP does not make, and expressly disclaims, all warranties, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, regardless of whether oral or written, express or implied, or allegedly arising from any usage of any trade or from any course of dealing in connection with the use of the information contained herein or the product itself. The user expressly assumes all risk and liability, whether based in contract, tort or otherwise, in connection with the use of the information contained herein or the product itself. Further, information contained herein is given without reference to any intellectual property issues, as well as federal, state or local laws which may be encountered in the use thereof. Such questions should be investigated by the user.

7 Annex 2

7.1 Secondary Calibration Method Example

Any PNC calibrated by the primary calibration method described in Section 4.1 can be utilised as a transfer standard against which the performance of other PNCs can be compared. This approach has been adopted to calibrate the Golden PNC used in the PMP Light Duty Interlaboratory Comparison Exercise and is described here as an example of using the secondary calibration method. A TSI Model 3010 PNC (S/N: 2005) calibrated by TSI according to the primary method was used as the transfer standard.

The aerosol generator consisted of a ceramic crucible heated via an electric Bunsen (Figures 4). The bulk material (sodium chloride) was placed in the ceramic crucible and heated to near its boiling point. A small flow was introduced into the crucible to displace vapour from the surface of the bulk material to a cooler region of the generator where condensation occurred. Particle diameters could be varied by controlling the rate of vapour transport from the crucible (via the crucible air flow) and/or the subsequent cooling rate of the vapour (via the carrier air flow). A typical size distribution of a generated aerosol is presented in Figure 5.

Note: This aerosol generation method is reported purely as an example. Alternative methods that generate similarly sized particles and concentrations are equally appropriate.

Figure 4a Condensation Aerosol Generator

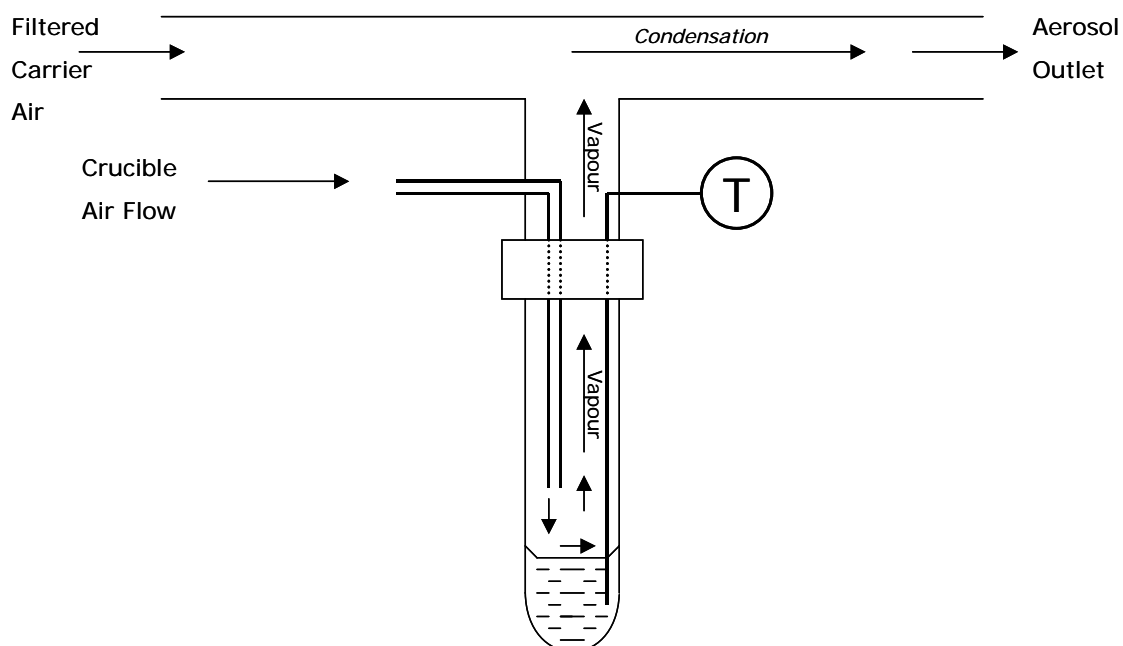


Figure 4b **Condensation Aerosol Generator**

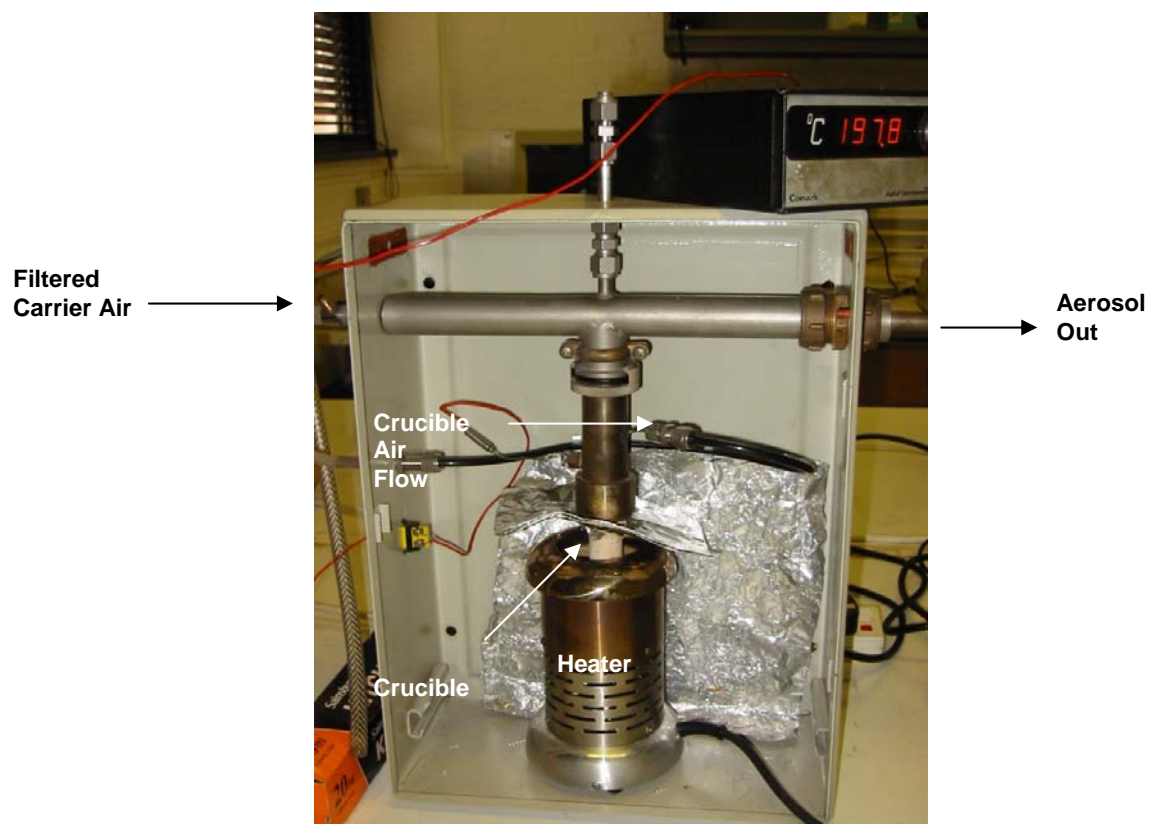
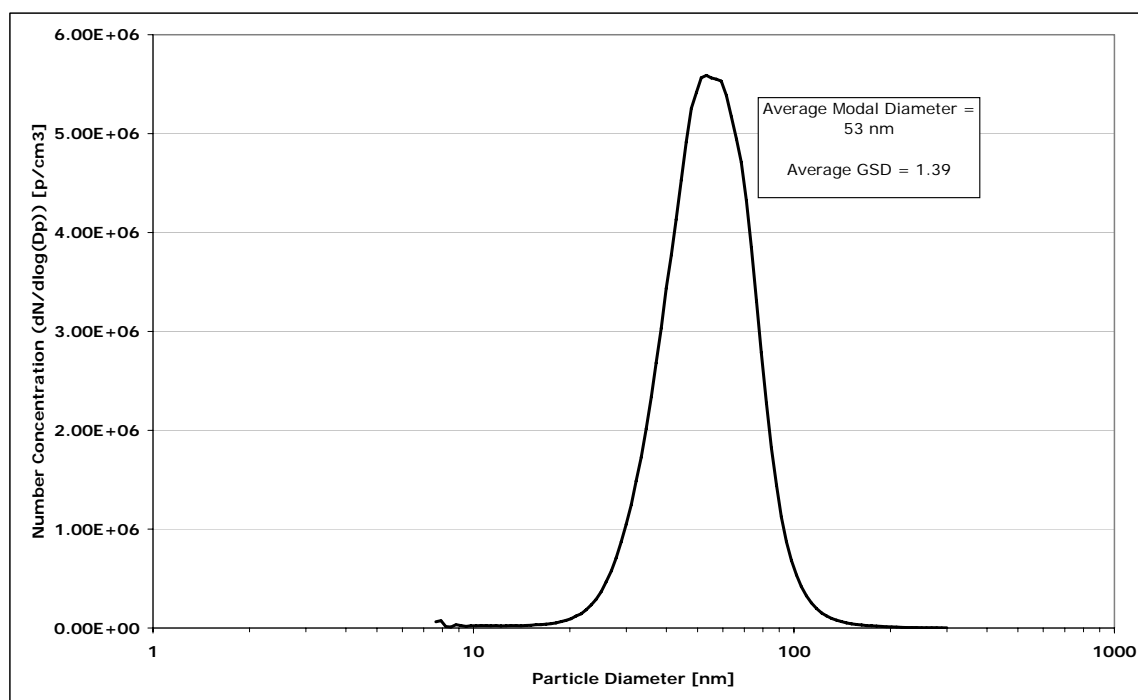


Figure 5 **Typical Size Distribution of a Sodium Chloride Calibration Aerosol**



The electrostatic classifier was used to select monodisperse fractions of the polydisperse sodium chloride calibration aerosol and deliver concentrations in the range from zero to 10,000 particles cm^{-3} to the PNCs, while simultaneously logging the concentrations reported by both PNCs. The electrostatic classifier was simply used to vary the concentration of particles reaching the PNCs, in contrast to the primary method where the electrostatic classification delivers singly charged particles to allow measurement with the reference aerosol electrometer. The range of diameters delivered by the classifier depended upon the unclassified aerosol mode and monodispersity, and the voltages chosen. Care was taken to ensure that the voltages selected on the classifier were such that the particles delivered to the PNCs were significantly bigger than the lower size detection limit of either PNC. This was particularly important in this example as the PMP Golden PNC had been modified to provide lower size detection limits of 23 ± 3 and 37 ± 4 nm for 50 % detection efficiency (D_{50}) and 90 % detection efficiency (D_{90}) respectively. The reference PNC was unmodified having a D_{50} of 9.5 ± 0.5 nm and D_{90} of 13.5 ± 0.5 nm. Thus significant differences between the concentrations reported by both PNCs would be expected if the calibration particles were smaller than ~40 nm. Identical flow paths were used to deliver the calibration particles from the electrostatic classifier to both PNCs, thus ensuring any losses within the pipe work were the same for both units. The maximum diameter delivered to the PNCs was limited to 100 nm.

Note: This method provides a quick and easy demonstration that the PNC under calibration responds in the same way as the transfer standard PNC to a variety of particle diameters and concentrations. The range of available concentrations is dependant on the characteristics of the unclassified aerosol.

An example of the results of two such comparisons is shown in Figure 6.

An alternative approach can be adopted where the output from the classifier is held at a single voltage and therefore delivers a single particle diameter, but particle concentration is varied using a controllable diluter installed after the classifier but before the point at which calibration aerosol is divided for delivery to each PNC. Investigation of the effect of particle diameter would have consequences for the aerosol generation method, which would have to be capable of generating the maximum required concentration at each of the diameters of interest for subsequent dilution. Monodispersity is not a requirement.

Figure 6 **PMP Golden PNC Calibration by the Secondary Method**

