



# **STATIONARY SOURCE AUDIT SAMPLE PROGRAM**

**[VOLUME 1, MODULE 3]**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN  
THE TNI STATIONARY SOURCE AUDIT SAMPLE  
PROGRAM**



## **TNI Voting Draft Standard**

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## PREFACE

This Standard is the result of many hours of effort by volunteers on The NELAC Institute (TNI) Stationary Source Audit Sample Expert Committee. The TNI Board of Directors wishes to thank these committee members for their efforts in preparing this Standard as well as those TNI members who offered comments during the drafting process.

Sections 3.12 (added section), 4.1.1, 4.2.1, and 5.1 of this document have been processed in accordance with the TNI requirement for a Tentative Interim Amendment. The same or similar amendment will undergo the consensus standards development process within the time-frame specified in SOP 2-100.

TNI developed these standards to fulfill the requirements established by EPA in Federal Register Vol. 75 No. 176 (75 FR 55636) September 13, 2010 "Restructuring the Audit Sample Program."

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### Standard Revision History

Action	Date
Working Draft Standard Published	December 18, 2008
Voting Draft Standard Published	May 15, 2009
Adopted by TNI Board	October 9, 2009
Modified by Tentative Interim Amendments	January 4, 2011
Modified by Tentative Interim Amendments	May 29, 2011
<u>Working Draft Standard Published</u>	<u>July 18, 2014</u>

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## [VOLUME 1, MODULE 3]

# General Requirements for Participation in the TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Program

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION, SCOPE, AND APPLICABILITY

### 1.1 Introduction

This Standard (Volume 1, Module 3) provides the requirements for participation in the TNI Stationary Source Audit Sample Program (SSAS Program).

### 1.2 Scope

The TNI SSAS Program includes the following elements:

- a) The production and supply of stationary source audit samples (hereafter referred to as “audit samples”) that challenge the critical components of each source test procedure, from sample collection to sample analysis;
- b) The production and supply of audit samples, the matrices of which, to the extent possible, resemble the matrices which Participants routinely analyze;
- c) The yielding of audit sample data that are technically defensible on the basis of the type and quality of the audit samples provided;
- d) The preparation of audit samples that pose equivalent difficulty and challenge, regardless of the manner in which they are designed and manufactured by the Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers (hereafter referred to as “Providers”); and
- e) Establishment of requirements for Facilities, Regulatory Agencies, Stationary Source Testers, Laboratories, Providers, and Stationary Source Audit Sample Provider Accreditors (hereafter referred to as “Provider Accreditors”) participating in the SSAS Program.

### 1.3 Applicability

- a) This Standard (Volume 1, Module 3) is applicable to all Participants using audit samples in the performance of stationary source air emissions testing for regulatory purposes.
- b) The final acceptance of a Facility’s stationary source air emissions test results by the Regulatory Agency is outside the scope of this Standard.

## 2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 *ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.*
- 2.2 *Federal Register Vol. 75 No. 176 (75 FR 55636) September 13, 2010 “Restructuring the Audit Sample Program”*

## 3.0 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard (Volume 1, Module 3), the relevant terms and definitions conform to *ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E)*, Clause 3. Additional relevant terms are defined below.

- 3.1 Assigned or True Value:** Value attributed to a particular quantity and accepted, sometimes by convention, as having an uncertainty appropriate for a given purpose.
- 3.2 Facility:** The responsible owner or operator for the stationary source or **their its** authorized representative.
- 3.3 Laboratory:** The organization that analyzes the samples collected during the stationary source test. This organization may be (1) the Stationary Source Tester or analytical chemist contractor analyzing the samples at the facility being tested or in a mobile laboratory or (2) an analytical laboratory or Stationary Source Tester analyzing the samples in their laboratory facility.
- 3.4 Participants:** The Facilities, Regulatory Agencies, Stationary Source Testers, Laboratories, and Providers participating in a stationary source test.
- 3.5 Regulatory Agency:** The federal, state, local, or tribal agency having responsibility and accountability for overseeing testing of atmospheric emissions from stationary sources.
- 3.6 Stationary source:** Any building, structure, facility, or installation that emits or may emit any air pollutant.
- 3.7 Stationary Source Audit Sample (audit sample):** A blind sample, the composition of which is known only to the Provider, and that is provided to evaluate whether, during a particular test event, the Stationary Source Tester and/or Laboratory can produce measurement results within specified acceptance criteria. Audit samples are not analyzed on a regular schedule, but they are analyzed only during the particular event (e.g., a compliance test) that is being audited. Audit samples are analyzed, or collected and analyzed, as part of the batch of field test samples using the same personnel, procedures, and materials.
- 3.8 Stationary Source Audit Sample Program (SSAS Program):** The procedures and operations for providing rigorously controlled and standardized audit samples, analyzing or collecting and analyzing them, reporting measured values, and reporting evaluations of the accuracy of the measured values.
- 3.9 Stationary Source Audit Sample Provider (Provider):** A person or organization that offers audit samples in accordance with the requirements of the Provider Standard (Volume 1, Module 1). This term is synonymous with Accredited Audit Sample Provider (AASP).
- 3.10 Stationary Source Audit Sample Provider Accreditor (Provider Accreditor):** An organization that is evaluated and approved by TNI, in accordance with the requirements of the Provider Accreditor Standard (Volume 1, Module 2), to accredit and monitor the performance of Providers. This term is synonymous with Audit Sample Provider Accreditor (ASPA).
- 3.11 Stationary Source Test:** The determination of the qualitative and/or quantitative composition of atmospheric emissions from a stationary source.
- 3.12 Stationary Source Test Start Date:** The initial date that a stationary source test sample is collected for subsequent analysis.
- 3.13 Stationary Source Tester:** ~~Person or persons testing~~ **A person or organization that tests or collects samples at** a stationary source ~~of for~~ atmospheric emissions.

## 4.0 ROLES OF PARTICIPANTS

Refer to Figure 1 for a representation of the **audit sample process flow of information** among the primary Participants in the TNI SSAS Program. This section describes the roles of the Participants in a stationary source test.

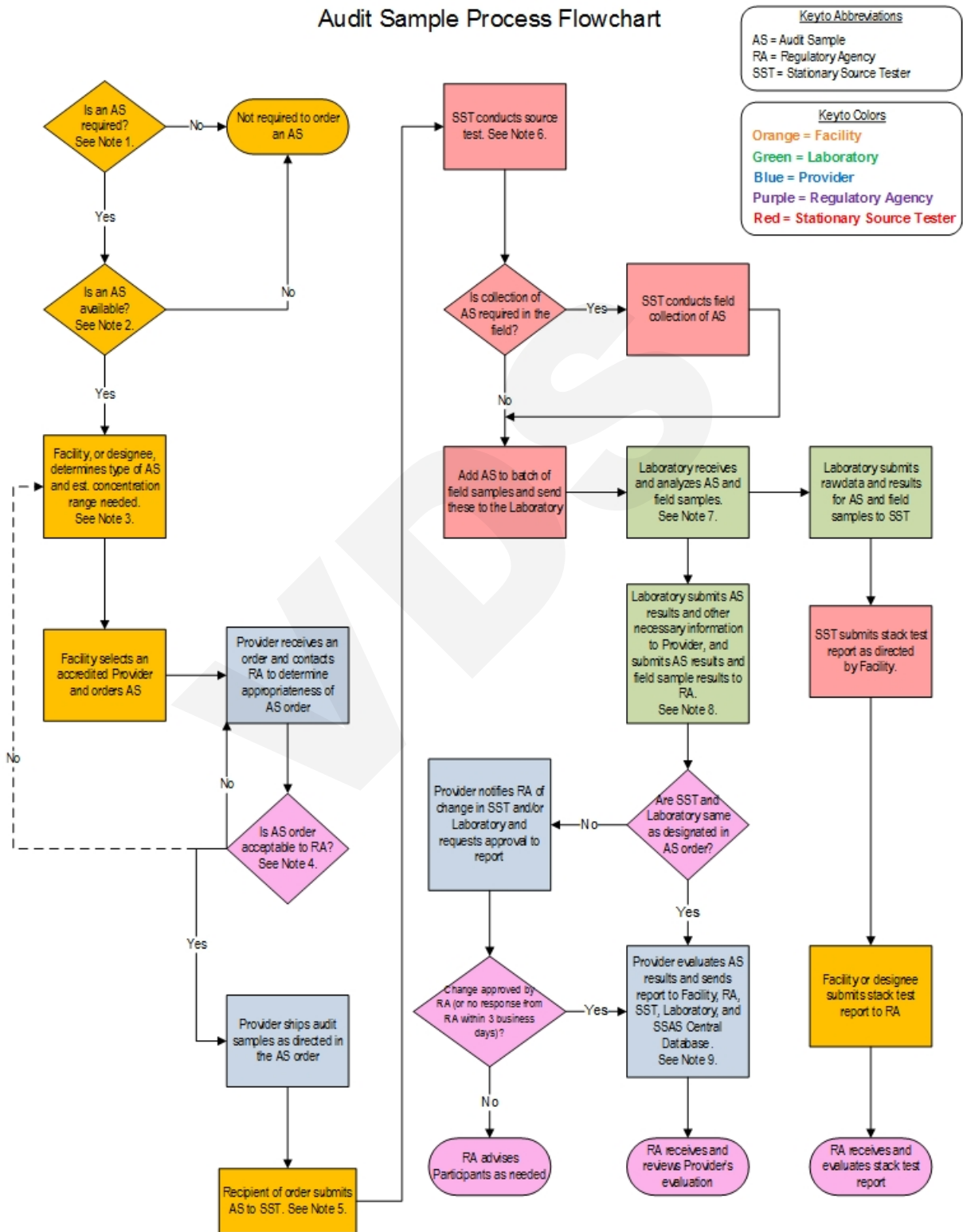


Figure 1. **TNI SSAS Audit Sample Process Flowchart**

**Figure 1 Notes**

1. Facility or designee (e.g., Stationary Source Tester, consultant, etc.) must determine whether one or more audit samples are required for each test method, matrix, and analyte. Consult the EPA Emission Measurement Center website located at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/emc/email.html> and your Regulatory Agency. See Sections 4.1.1 and 4.3.1 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3).
2. Consult the EPA Emission Measurement Center website located at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/emc/email.html>.
3. Consult the Regulatory Agency or the EPA for guidance. See Section 4.2 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3).
4. Per Section 8.0 of the Provider Standard (Volume 1, Module 1), the Provider may ship the audit sample as ordered, if response is not received from the Regulatory Agency within fifteen (15) calendar days of such request. See Section 4.2.2 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3).
5. If there are questions or complaints regarding the audit sample order, consult Section 6.0 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3) on the procedures to follow to submit your questions/complaints.
6. The Stationary Source Tester must ensure that the audit sample is available on-site when conducting the stack test. See Section 4.3.2 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3).
7. The Laboratory must handle, store, and analyze each audit sample in the same batch and in the same manner as the stationary source test samples for the test method and analyte being audited. See Section 4.4 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3). Additional instructions from the Providers must be followed.
8. The Laboratory submittal to the Provider must include the Stationary Source Test Project ID and other pertinent information defined in Section 11.2 of the Provider Standard (Volume 1, Module 1), to enable the Provider to generate its evaluation report. See also Section 4.4.2 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3).
9. If there are questions or complaints regarding the Provider's evaluation of the audit sample results, consult Section 6.0 of this Participants Standard (Volume1, Module 3) on the procedures to follow to submit your questions/complaints.

## 4.1 Facility

4.1.1 The Facility shall inform the Regulatory Agency of their selected accredited Provider. The Facility shall submit to the Regulatory Agency sufficient documentation to determine the type of each audit sample and to calculate each audit sample concentration range needed. Such documentation shall (as applicable) include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- a) Test methods
- b) Analytes
- c) Matrix or collection media, as appropriate
- d) Emission limits
- e) Estimated (or permitted, as applicable) stack flow rates
- f) In-stack concentration estimates
- g) Proposed or estimated stack gas sample volume

4.1.2 The Facility shall contact the Provider to order the audit sample(s), and identify and provide contact information for the Regulatory Agency, the Stationary Source Test companies, and the Laboratories participating in the stationary source tests.

4.1.2.1 Audit samples are Laboratory-specific. The Facility shall send the audit sample to the Laboratory identified in the initial audit sample order.

4.1.2.2 The Facility shall inform the Provider prior to sending the audit sample to a new or alternate Laboratory.

4.1.3 The Facility shall collect the stationary source test results and the audit sample results and shall report them to the Regulatory Agency, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulatory Agency.

4.1.4 The Facility shall receive the evaluation of the audit sample results from the Provider.

## 4.2 Regulatory Agency

4.2.1 The Regulatory Agency shall receive and review the pre-test or preliminary information from the Facility, as defined in Section 4.1.1 above.

4.2.2 The Regulatory Agency shall receive and review the Facility's request for audit samples and may provide input regarding the audit samples to the Facility and to the Provider within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving notice and information about the order from the Provider. It is the responsibility of the Regulatory Agency to evaluate the method, container, matrix, analytes, and analyte requested values proposed for the audit sample and to choose, in consultation with the Provider, the analyte values that best audit the test and are blind to the other Participants. If any aspect of the audit sample, except the analyte value, must be changed, the Regulatory Agency shall inform the Facility as well as the Provider so that the Facility can also change the order as the Regulatory Agency requires.

4.2.3 In the event that the Provider notifies the Regulatory Agency that a Facility has changed the Stationary Source Tester and/or Laboratory specified in the initial order, the Regulatory Agency shall receive and review the changed information and provide input to the Facility and to the Provider within three (3) business days after receiving updated information about the change in the



initial order or about the results being submitted by Laboratories or Stationary Source Testers other than those identified in the initial order.

4.2.4 The Regulatory Agency shall receive and review the stationary source test results and the audit sample results from the Facility and may provide input to the Facility after the test.

4.2.5 The Regulatory Agency shall receive the evaluations of the audit samples from the Provider.

### **4.3 Stationary Source Tester**

4.3.1 The Stationary Source Tester shall coordinate with the Facility, Laboratory, and Regulatory Agency to plan and schedule the stationary source test and to plan for appropriate audit sample(s).

4.3.2 The Stationary Source Tester shall receive the audit samples from the Provider or the Facility, have them available at the test site during testing, and add them to the batch of field samples sent for analysis, unless otherwise authorized by the Regulatory Agency.

4.3.3 The Stationary Source Tester shall perform the stationary source test.

4.3.4 The Stationary Source Tester shall deliver the stationary source test samples and the audit samples to the Laboratory at the same time.

4.3.5 The Stationary Source Tester shall prepare the data report, as defined by the Regulatory Agency, and provide it to the Facility. The data report shall contain the stationary source test results and the audit sample results.

### **4.4 Laboratory**

4.4.1 The Laboratory shall receive and analyze the stationary source test samples and the audit samples from the Stationary Source Tester. The Laboratory shall handle, store, and analyze each audit sample in the same batch and in the same manner as the stationary source test samples for the test method and analyte being audited. The Laboratory shall prepare each audit sample for analysis according to the instructions provided by the Provider. The Laboratory shall use the same personnel, sample tracking, sample storage, preparation, analysis methods, equipment, materials, standard operating procedures, calibration techniques, quality control procedures, and quality control acceptance criteria for the stationary source test samples and the audit samples.

4.4.2 The Laboratory shall report the audit sample results to the Provider and simultaneously report the stationary source test laboratory results and the audit sample results to the Regulatory Agency, unless otherwise directed by the Regulatory Agency

4.4.3 The Laboratory shall receive the audit sample evaluations from the Provider in the time frame defined in Section 11.1.1 of the Provider Standard (Volume 1, Module 1).

4.4.4 The Laboratory may perform corrective action, as needed, based on the audit sample results.

4.4.5 The Laboratory shall keep records regarding the analysis of audit samples and make them available for review upon request for a minimum of five years, or as required by the Regulatory Agency.

### **4.5 Provider**

Requirements for the Provider are specified in Volume 1, Module 1.

## 5.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDLING, ANALYSIS, AND REPORTING OF THE AUDIT SAMPLE

5.1 The Facility, Stationary Source Tester, and Laboratory shall not:

- a) subcontract the analysis of any audit sample or a portion of the audit sample to a Laboratory not specified to the Provider;
- b) communicate with any individual at another Facility, Stationary Source Tester, or Laboratory concerning the analysis or measurement of the audit sample; or
- c) attempt to obtain the assigned value of any audit sample.

## 6.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR QUESTION AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

6.1 When a Facility, Stationary Source Tester, or Laboratory has a question or complaint regarding an audit sample or performance evaluation from the Provider, and when the Facility, Stationary Source Tester, or Laboratory has sufficient cause to question the validity of that audit sample or performance evaluation, they may submit the question or complaint to the Provider, and notify the Regulatory Agency. The Provider shall include, with the reporting forms that come with the audit sample instructions, contact information for the associated Regulatory Agency, and provide a website link for submitting a complaint.

6.1.1 If the Provider is unable to resolve the question or complaint to the satisfaction of the Facility, Stationary Source Tester, or Laboratory within 45 days, the Facility, Stationary Source Tester, or Laboratory may elevate the question or complaint to the Provider Accreditor, in writing, detailing the complaint. The Provider Accreditor shall conduct a review in accordance with their policies, and provide their recommendation to the Regulatory Agency. The Regulatory Agency shall then resolve the question or complaint, in accordance with their policies.