

# The Importance of Personal Development in the Field of Environmental Monitoring and MCERTS

## Sira

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**In the current economic climate, expenditure by organisations on training has suffered a downturn. It is viewed by many that training is non-essential, and the focus is on maintaining profit margins. However, continual improvement of staff understanding and knowledge within the areas they work should increase productivity and motivation. Plant owners also have a responsibility to ensure their staff are kept up-to-date with latest technical guidance and requirements. With the growing acceptance of the MCERTS schemes in the UK, Europe and further afield, it is now more important than ever that manufacturers, process operators and stack-emission monitoring personnel are kept fully abreast of changes to legislation and policy.**

## MCERTS – an Overview

Businesses that produce emissions to air, land and water are regulated by the Environment Agency (EA) under strict European and UK laws, to protect the environment and human health.

If your company needs to comply with these laws you will need permission from the EA to operate. This permission usually comes in the form of a permit, which routinely requires you to monitor emissions.

Businesses either monitor their emissions all the time, known as continuous monitoring, or at times defined in their permit, known as spot tests or periodic monitoring. In both cases, they must meet the EA quality requirements.

MCERTS is the Environment Agency's Monitoring Certification Scheme. It provides the framework for businesses to meet the quality requirements. If you comply with MCERTS, the EA can have confidence in the monitoring of emissions to the environment.

## Monitoring Emissions to Air

EN14181 - "Quality Assurance of Automated Measuring Systems" - has seen the most significant change in the emissions monitoring arena in recent times. Compliance with EN14181 is a legal requirement under both the Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD) and the Waste Incineration Directive (WID).

Selection, commissioning and operation of Automated Measuring System (AMS) will be subject to EN14181. Failure to comply with the requirements of EN14181 may well result in the contravention of operating Permits with obvious consequences, and also expensive re-validation of the installed systems.

To comply with EN14181, an AMS must be shown to meet QAL 1 requirements; i.e. it must meet certain performance characteristics as stipulated in EN ISO14956. Instrument performance must be validated in ALL cases by field trials.

MCERTS certification according to EN15267 provides this validation and meets the required standard. The certified instrument must also meet the monitoring requirements of the specific process or application.

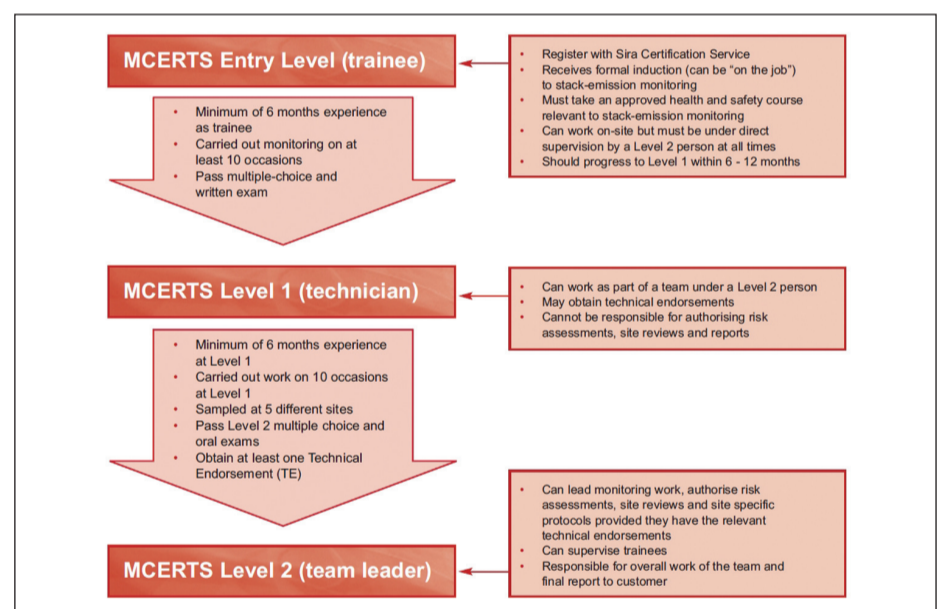
## MCERTS Personnel Competence Scheme

### Progression through the MCERTS Personnel Competence Scheme

The MCERTS personnel competence standard defines the competence requirements for personnel carrying out manual stack-emission monitoring. Although MCERTS accredited organisations must use MCERTS certified personnel to carry out stack-emission monitoring activities, MCERTS personnel certification is awarded to individuals and not to the organisation for which they work. It is therefore the responsibility of the individual to keep all records associated with their personnel certification.

The MCERTS personnel competence standard enables stack-emission monitoring personnel to be certified as competent based on experience, training and examinations.

The diagram (top right) summarises the structure of the standard.



Attendance at an approved Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment course specific for stack emission monitoring is a pre-requisite for Trainees wanting to become MCERTS Level 1 Certified, and must be attended every 5 years by all MCERTS Certified Personnel in order to maintain their Competence Certificate. The course covers the content of the Source Testing Association's (STA) risk assessment guide and the health and safety section in Environment Agency Technical Guidance Note M1.

Under OMA (Operator Monitoring Assessment), one of the components that process operators are marked on is competence of personnel (OMA Section 1, element E). Attendance at training courses is evidence of developing and maintaining competence.

## Courses provided by Sira Consulting:

	Dates 2011		
MCERTS Awareness	6th September	30th November	
Introduction to Emissions Monitoring	13th September	6th December	
Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment relating to Stack Emissions Monitoring	21st July	13th September	7th December

For 2012 dates please contact Sira on:

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