The WMO-GAW World Calibration Centre for Surface Ozone, Carbon Monoxide and Methane: Activities during the Last 10 Years with a Focus on Carbon Monoxide

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Empa operates the World Calibration Centre for Surface Ozone, Carbon Monoxide and Methane (WCC-Empa) within the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Program. WCC-Empa has the responsibility to ensure traceability of these measurements at GAW sites to the GAW references maintained by the Central Calibration Laboratories (CCL). A total of 41 audits (28 for carbon monoxide) at 18 different GAW stations were conducted since 1996. The figure below shows slope / intercept pairs of station analyzers vs. WCC-Empa traveling standards for carbon monoxide audits conducted since 1997 based on the NOAA ESRL WMO-2000 carbon monoxide calibration scale (1) for the WCC-Empa standards. Significant differences were observed for different measurements techniques, with a tendency of the GC/HgO instruments to negative intercept – positive slope combinations. These results will be discussed with respect to instrument calibration and calibration scale issues.

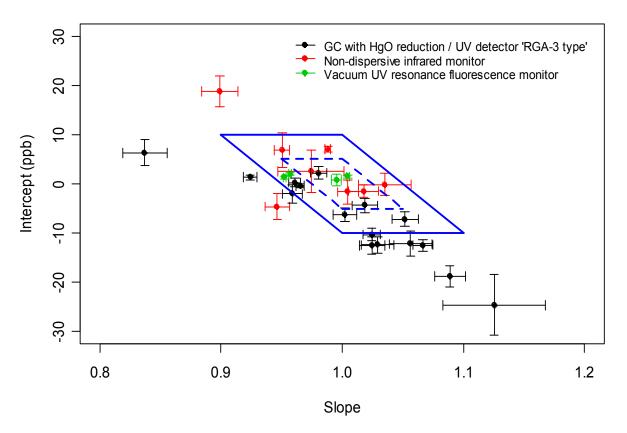


Figure 1. Plot of intercept versus slope for carbon monoxide audits conducted at Global GAW sites by WCC-Empa between 1997 and 2006 for different measurement techniques. The intercept / slope pairs are referenced against the WCC-Empa CO standard (calibrated traveling standard, WMO-2000 CO scale). The rhomboids displayed cover the range of slope-intercept combinations for a maximum of 5 ppb (dashed line) and 10 ppb (solid line) bias for the concentration range 0-200 ppb CO.

Reference: (1) Novelli et al., JGR, 108, 2003