

Appendix B

DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST RIG AND METHODOLOGY

TEST DUCT

The tests were conducted in RTI's air cleaner test facility (Figure B-1). The test rig's ducting was primarily of 24 x 24 in. (0.61 x 0.61m) cross section and made of 14-gauge stainless steel. The blower is rated at 15 hp (11 kW) with a flow capacity of 3000 cfm (1.4 m³/s) at 13 in. H₂O (3200 Pa). The inlet and outlet filter banks consist of two 24 x 24 x 2 in. (0.61 x 0.61 x 0.05 m) prefilters and two 24 x 24 x 12 in. (0.61 x 0.61 x 0.30 m) high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters rated at 2000 cfm (0.9 m³/s) each. The system operates at positive pressure to minimize infiltration of room air.

To mix the test aerosol with the air stream, an orifice plate and mixing baffle were located immediately downstream of the aerosol injection point and upstream of the test arrestor. An identical orifice plate and mixing baffle were added after the 180° bend. The latter downstream orifice served two purposes. It straightened out the flow after going around the bend, and it mixed any aerosol that penetrated the air cleaning device. Mixing the penetrating aerosol with the air stream is necessary to obtain a representative downstream aerosol measurement.

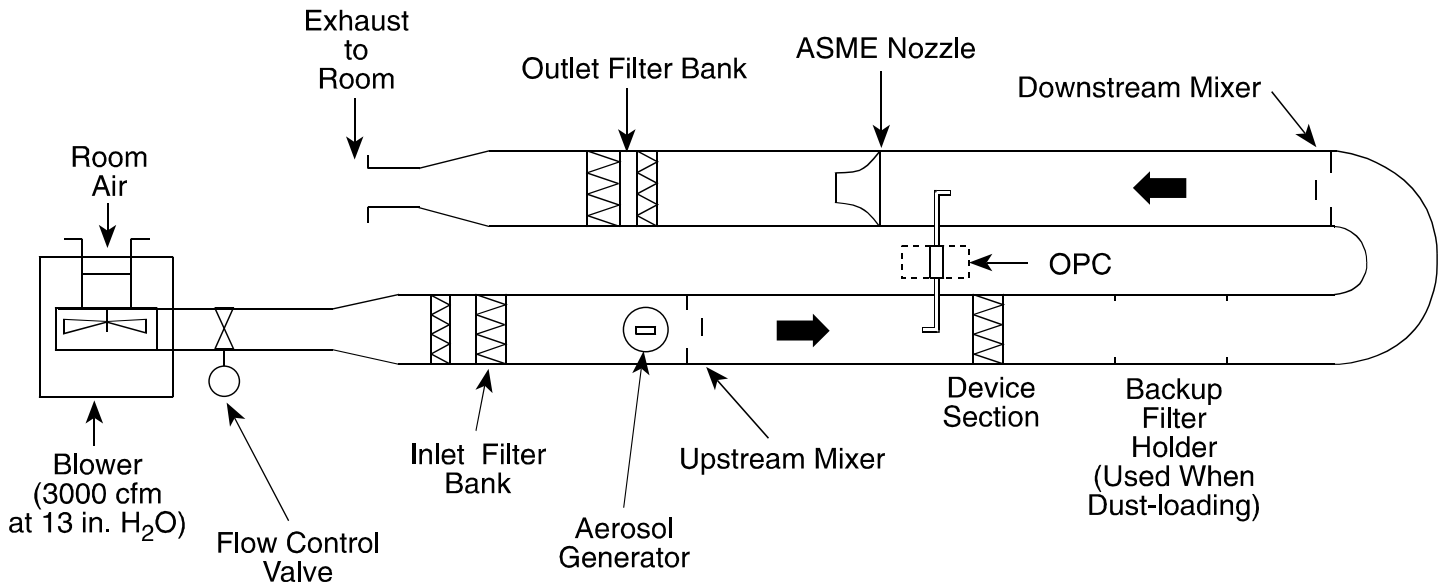
AIRFLOW

Airflow was measured with an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) flow nozzle. The nominal velocity through the arrestor was computed by dividing the volumetric flow by the nominal face area of the device.

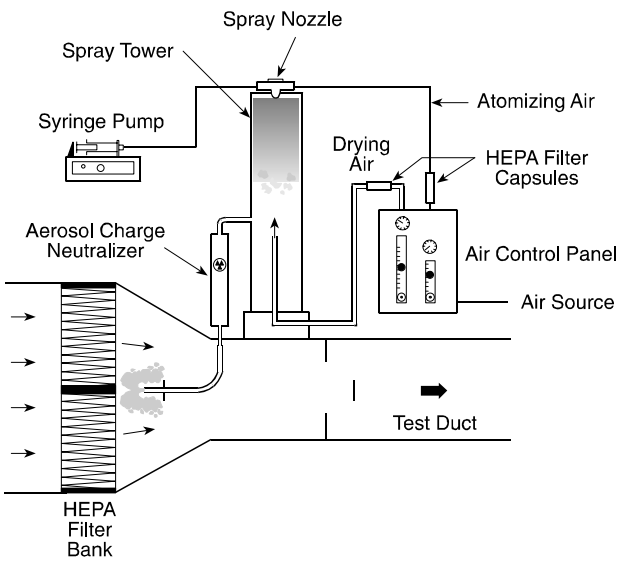
OPTICAL PARTICLE COUNTER (OPC)

Aerosol concentrations were measured with a Climet Instruments Model 500 optical particle counter (OPC). This OPC has 15 channels covering the range from 0.3 to 10 μm diameter. The OPC uses a laser-light illumination source and has a wide collection angle for the scattered light. The OPC's sampling rate was 0.25 cfm (0.00012 m³/s).

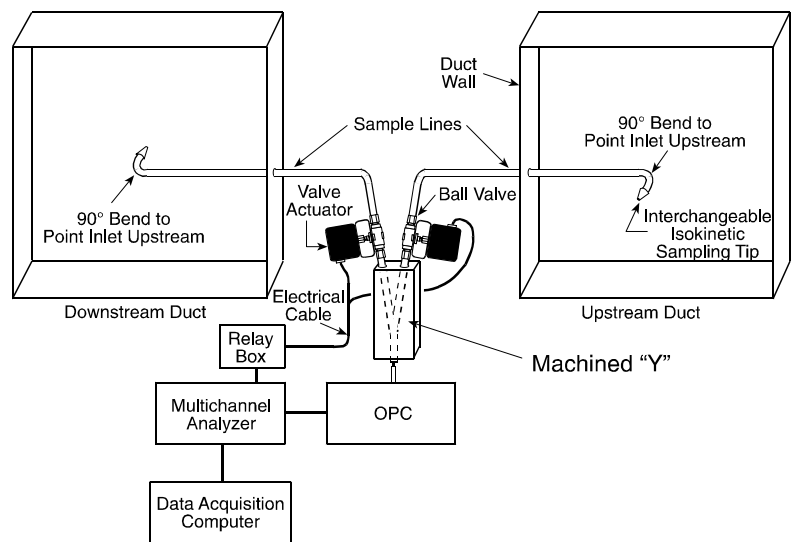
The OPC was equipped to provide a contact closure at the end of each sample and also provides a 15-sec delay in particle counting after each sample. The contact closure was used to control the operation of electromechanical valve actuators in the upstream and downstream sample lines. The 15-sec delay allows time for the new sample to be acquired.



Overview of Test Duct Configuration (Top View)



Aerosol Generation System (Side View)



Aerosol Sampling System (End View)

Figure B-1. Schematic illustration of the fractional efficiency test rig.

AEROSOL GENERATION

Two types of challenge aerosols were used: liquid- and solid-phase. The selection of liquid- or solid-phase challenge aerosol particles is important because for some types of paint arrestors significantly different filtration efficiencies will be achieved depending upon the phase of the challenge aerosol particles. (This is due to particle "bounce" associated with solid-phase particles.) The liquid-phase challenge aerosol is oleic acid, a non-toxic, low-volatility liquid. The solid-phase aerosol is potassium chloride (KCl) generated from an aqueous solution. KCl was selected as the solid-phase aerosol because of its relatively high water solubility, high deliquescence humidity (85% relative humidity), known crystalline structure (facilitates complete drying), and low toxicity. The KCl solution was prepared by combining 0.66 lb (300 g) of KCl with 0.035 ft³ (1 L) of distilled water. Both oleic acid and KCl are compatible with accurate measurement by the optical particle counter.

The oleic acid or the KCl solution was nebulized using a two-fluid (air and liquid) air atomizing nozzle (Spray Systems 1/4 J siphon spray nozzle) as illustrated in Figure A-1 (aerosol generation system). The nozzle was positioned at the top of a 12 in. (0.30 m) diameter, 51 in. (1.3 m) tall transparent acrylic spray tower. The tower served two purposes. It allowed the salt droplets to dry by providing an approximate 40 sec. mean residence time, and it allowed larger-sized particles (of either KCl or oleic acid) to fall out of the aerosol. After generation, the aerosol passed through a TSI Model 3054 aerosol neutralizer (Kr-85 radioactive source) to neutralize any electrostatic charge on the aerosol (electrostatic charging is an unavoidable consequence of most aerosol-generation methods).

The KCl solution or oleic acid was fed to the atomizing nozzle at 1.2 mL/min (4.2×10^{-5} ft³/min) by means of a pump. Varying the operating air pressure of the generator allows control of the mean diameter of the challenge aerosol.

AEROSOL SAMPLING SYSTEM

The aerosol sampling lines were 0.55 in. (14 mm) ID stainless steel lines and used gradual bends [radius of curvature = 2.25 in. (57 mm)] when needed. These dimensions were chosen to minimize particle losses in the sample lines. A custom-made "Y" fitting connected the upstream and downstream lines to the OPC. The two branches of the "Y" merged gradually to minimize particle loss in the intersection of the "Y" due to centrifugal or impaction forces.

Immediately above the "Y," electrically actuated ball valves were installed in each branch (Parker Model EA Electro-Mechanical Valve Actuator). The opening and closing of the valves were automatically controlled by the OPC's sequential sampling interface board. The valves take approximately 2 sec. to complete an opening or closing maneuver.

Isokinetic sampling nozzles of the appropriate entrance diameter were placed on the ends of the sample probes to maintain isokinetic sampling for all the test flow rates.