Frequently Asked Questions

PCA3®

FAQ's

1. How is the new PCA®3 Portable Combustion Analyzer different than the PCA®2?
    - While the PCA®3 is based on the same technology and platform of the PCA®2, the improvements are striking. To highlight a few of the new features:
        i. Full-color graphic display with bright backlighting for superior visibility
        ii. B-Smart® Sensors with the option of B-Smart® Sensor Exchange Program
        iii. Dimming mode saves battery life (nearly doubles the life of AA batteries)
        iv. Sturdy metal gas and draft connectors add durability in the field
        v. Company upload capability & ability to tag customer data to records
        vi. Internal battery back-up saves data for 5-7 years even if AA batteries die
        vii. Improved IrDA transmission to wireless printer

2. Can custom fuels be developed for the PCA®3?
    - Yes. In order to develop a custom fuel type, Bacharach will need to obtain information from the customer to determine the full analysis parameters. A Custom Fuel form is completed by the customer and provided to Bacharach. In return, the custom fuel programming is ordered and provided via email or file download for upload to the PCA®3.

3. Is it possible to download data from the PCA®3 without interrupting datalogging that is in process?
    - Yes. Data can be downloaded using the Fyrite® User Software while logging is in process.

4. What file type and size limit is required to upload a custom logo in the PCA®3?
    - The logo needs to be in a bitmap file type (.bmp) 384 x 192 pixels maximum.

5. Does the PCA®3 make calculations on a wet or dry basis?
    - The PCA3 makes calculations on a dry basis. An instrument is said to make calculations on a dry basis when it eliminates water vapor from the measurement process and therefore from the calculation.

6. Why is it important to use the sample conditioner (P/N 0024-7224) when measuring nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2)?
    - NO_2 and SO_2 are soluble in water and can be removed from the combustion sample as it is exposed to condensate in the sample line. The sample conditioner removes water vapor from the combustion sample and provides a dry sample to the analyzer that can then be used to make accurate measurements of NO_2 and SO_2.

7. Does the PCA®3 Oxygen (O_2) sensor require calibration?
    - No. The O_2 sensor is calibrated every time the instrument is turned on as long as the instrument is in fresh air (where oxygen = 20.9%).

8. How often should the sensors be calibrated in the PCA®3?
    - The recommended calibration period is every 6 to 12 months. With this in mind, the B-Smart® Sensor Exchange Program is designed to deliver a pre-calibrated sensor or sensors to the customer's door every 9 months for a period of 3 years.

9. How do I sign up for the B-Smart® Sensor Exchange Program?
    - It's simple! Customers will go to www.MyBacharach.com/bsmart to register for the program desired.

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