

# Final report, Ongoing Key Comparison BIPM.QM-K1, Ozone at ambient level, comparison with VSL, (September 2016)

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## Abstract

As part of the ongoing key comparison BIPM.QM-K1, a comparison has been performed between the ozone national standard of the Netherlands maintained by the Van Swinden (VSL) and the common reference standard of the key comparison, maintained by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM). The instruments have been compared over a nominal ozone amount-of-substance fraction range from 0 nmol/mol to 500 nmol/mol.

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## 1. Field

Amount of substance.

## 2. Subject

Comparison of reference measurement standards for ozone at ambient level.

## 3. Participants

BIPM.QM-K1 is an ongoing key comparison, which is structured as an ongoing series of bilateral comparisons. The results of the comparison with the Van Swinden (VSL) are reported here.

## 4. Organizing body

BIPM

## 5. Rationale

The ongoing key comparison BIPM.QM-K1 has been running since January 2007. It follows the pilot study CCQM-P28 that included 23 participants and was performed between July 2003 and February 2005 [1]. It is aimed at evaluating the degree of equivalence of ozone photometers that are maintained as national standards, or as primary standards within international networks for ambient ozone measurements. The reference value is determined using the NIST Standard Reference Photometer (BIPM-SRP27) maintained by the BIPM as a common reference.

## 6. Terms and definitions

- $x_{\text{nom}}$ : nominal ozone amount-of-substance fraction in dry air furnished by the ozone generator
- $x_{A,i}$ :  $i$ th measurement of the nominal value  $x_{\text{nom}}$  by the photometer A.
- $\bar{x}_A$ : the mean of  $N$  measurements of the nominal value  $x_{\text{nom}}$  measured by the photometer

$$A : \bar{x}_A = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_{A,i}$$

- $s_A$ : standard deviation of  $N$  measurements of the nominal value  $x_{\text{nom}}$  measured by the photometer A :  $s_A^2 = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_{A,i} - \bar{x}_A)^2$
- The result of the linear regression fit performed between two sets of data measured by the photometers A and B during a comparison is written:  $x_A = a_{A,B}x_B + b_{A,B}$ . With this notation, the photometer A is compared against the photometer B.  $a_{A,B}$  is dimensionless and  $b_{A,B}$  is expressed in units of nmol/mol.

## 7. Measurement schedule

The key comparison BIPM.QM-K1 was initially organised in 2 years cycles. The 2007-2008 round, the results of which were published in the [Key Comparison Database](#) of the BIPM, included 16 participants. The second round of BIPM.QM-K1 started in March 2009 for a period of 4 years, following the decision of the CCQM/GAWG to reduce the repeat frequency

of bilateral comparisons. Measurements reported in this report were performed on 29 September 2016 at the BIPM.

## 8. Measurement protocol

The comparison protocol is summarized in this section. The complete version can be found on the BIPM website ([http://www.bipm.org/utis/en/pdf/BIPM.QM-K1\\_protocol.pdf](http://www.bipm.org/utis/en/pdf/BIPM.QM-K1_protocol.pdf)).

This comparison was performed following protocol A, corresponding to a direct comparison between the VSL national standard UMEG-26 and the common reference standard BIPM-SRP27 maintained at the BIPM. A comparison between two (or more) ozone photometers consists of producing ozone-air mixtures at different amount-of-substance fractions over the required range, and measuring these with the photometers.

### 8.1. Ozone generation

The same source of purified air is used for all the ozone photometers being compared. This air is used to provide reference air as well as the ozone-air mixture to each ozone photometer. Ambient air is used as the source for reference air. The air is compressed with an oil-free compressor, dried and scrubbed with a commercial purification system so that the amount-of-substance fractions of ozone and nitrogen oxides remaining in the air are below detectable limits. The relative humidity of the reference air is monitored and the amount-of-substance fraction of water in air typically is below 3  $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ . The amount-of-substance fraction of volatile organic hydrocarbons in the reference air was measured (November 2002), with no amount-of-substance fraction of any detected component exceeding 1  $\text{nmol/mol}$ .

A common dual external manifold in Pyrex is used to furnish the necessary flows of reference air and ozone-air mixtures to the ozone photometers. The two columns of this manifold are vented to atmospheric pressure.

### 8.2. Comparison procedure

Prior to the comparison, all the instruments were switched on and allowed to stabilise for at least 8 hours. The pressure and temperature measurement systems of the instruments were checked at this time. If any adjustments were required, these were noted. For this comparison, no adjustments were necessary.

One comparison run includes 10 different amount-of-substance fractions distributed to cover the range, together with the measurement of zero reference air at the beginning and end of each run. The nominal amount-of-substance fractions were measured in a sequence imposed by the protocol (0, 220, 80, 420, 120, 320, 30, 370, 170, 500, 270, and 0)  $\text{nmol/mol}$ . Each of these points is an average of 10 single measurements.

For each nominal value of the ozone amount-of-substance fraction  $x_{\text{nom}}$  furnished by the ozone generator, the standard deviation  $s_{\text{SRP27}}$  on the set of 10 consecutive measurements  $x_{\text{SRP27},i}$  recorded by BIPM-SRP27 was calculated. The measurement results were considered as valid if  $s_{\text{SRP27}}$  was less than 1  $\text{nmol/mol}$ , which ensures that the photometers were measuring a stable ozone concentration. If not, another series of 10 consecutive measurements was performed.

### 8.3. Comparison repeatability

The comparison procedure was repeated three times to evaluate its repeatability. The participant and the BIPM commonly decided when both instruments were stable enough to

start recording a set of measurement results to be considered as the official comparison results.

#### 8.4. SRP27 stability check

A second ozone reference standard, BIPM-SRP28, was included in the comparison to verify its agreement with BIPM-SRP27 and thus follow its stability over the period of the ongoing key comparison.

### 9. Reporting measurement results

The participant and the BIPM staff reported the measurement results in the result form BIPM.QM-K1-R1 provided by the BIPM and available on the BIPM website. It includes details on the comparison conditions, measurement results and associated uncertainties, as well as the standard deviation for each series of 10 ozone amount-of-substance fractions measured by the participant's standard and the common reference standard. The completed form BIPM.QM-K1-R1-VSL-16 is given in Appendix 1.

### 10. Post comparison calculation

All calculations were performed by the BIPM using the form BIPM.QM-K1-R1. It includes the two degrees of equivalence that are reported as comparison results in the Appendix B of the BIPM KCDB (key comparison database). Additionally, the degrees of equivalence at all nominal ozone amount-of-substance fractions are reported in the same form, as well as the linear relationship between the participant standard and the common reference standard.

### 11. Deviations from the comparison protocol

In this comparison, there was no deviation from the protocol.

### 12. Measurement standards

The instruments maintained by the BIPM are Standard Reference Photometers (SRP) built by the NIST. More details on the NIST SRP principle and its capabilities can be found in [2]. The instrument maintained by the VSL is a commercial ozone photometer manufactured by LUBW (formerly UMEG). Its serial number is UMEG-26. Both instruments run on the same principle. They differ by some technical choices, the main one being the presence of only one gas cell in the UMEG-26, whereas the NIST-SRP includes two. More details on the UMEG-26 can be found in the annex, with details on its uncertainty budget. The following section describes briefly both instruments' measurement principle and their uncertainty budgets.

#### 12.1. Measurement equation of a NIST SRP

The measurement of the ozone amount-of-substance fraction by an SRP is based on the absorption of radiation at 253.7 nm by ozonized air in the gas cells of the instrument. One particularity of the instrument design is the use of two gas cells to overcome the instability of the light source. The measurement equation is derived from the Beer-Lambert and ideal gas laws. The number concentration ( $C$ ) of ozone is calculated from:

$$C = \frac{-1}{2\sigma L_{\text{opt}}} \frac{T}{T_{\text{std}}} \frac{P_{\text{std}}}{P} \ln(D) \quad (1)$$

where

- $\sigma$  is the absorption cross-section of ozone at 253.7 nm under standard conditions of temperature and pressure,  $1.1476 \times 10^{-17}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/molecule [3].
- $L_{\text{opt}}$  is the mean optical path length of the two cells;
- $T$  is the measured temperature of the cells;
- $T_{\text{std}}$  is the standard temperature (273.15 K);
- $P$  is the measured pressure of the cells;
- $P_{\text{std}}$  is the standard pressure (101.325 kPa);
- $D$  is the product of transmittances of two cells, with the transmittance ( $T_r$ ) of one cell defined as

$$T_r = \frac{I_{\text{ozone}}}{I_{\text{air}}} \quad (2)$$

where

$I_{\text{ozone}}$  is the UV radiation intensity measured from the cell when containing ozonized air, and

$I_{\text{air}}$  is the UV radiation intensity measured from the cell when containing pure air (also called reference or zero air).

Using the ideal gas law equation (1) can be recast in order to express the measurement results as a amount-of-substance fraction ( $x$ ) of ozone in air:

$$x = \frac{-1}{2\sigma L_{\text{opt}}} \frac{T}{P} \frac{R}{N_A} \ln(D) \quad (3)$$

where

$N_A$  is the Avogadro constant,  $6.022142 \times 10^{23}$  mol<sup>-1</sup>, and

$R$  is the gas constant,  $8.314472$  J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>

The formulation implemented in the SRP software is:

$$x = \frac{-1}{2\alpha_x L_{\text{opt}}} \frac{T}{T_{\text{std}}} \frac{P_{\text{std}}}{P} \ln(D) \quad (4)$$

where

$\alpha_x$  is the linear absorption coefficient at standard conditions, expressed in cm<sup>-1</sup>, linked to the absorption cross-section with the relation:

$$\alpha_x = \sigma \frac{N_A}{R} \frac{P_{\text{std}}}{T_{\text{std}}} \quad (5)$$

## 12.2. Absorption cross-section for ozone

The linear absorption coefficient under standard conditions  $\alpha_x$  used within the SRP software algorithm is 308.32 cm<sup>-1</sup>. This corresponds to a value for the absorption cross section  $\sigma$  of  $1.1476 \times 10^{-17}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/molecule, rather than the more often quoted  $1.147 \times 10^{-17}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/molecule. In the comparison of two SRP instruments, the absorption cross-section can be considered to have a conventional value and its uncertainty can be set to zero. However, in the comparison of different methods or when considering the complete uncertainty budget of the method the uncertainty of the absorption cross-section should be taken into account. A consensus value of

2.12 % at a 95 % level of confidence for the uncertainty of the absorption cross-section has been proposed by the BIPM and the NIST in a recent publication [4].

### 12.3. Condition of the BIPM SRPs

Compared to the original design described in [2], SRP27 and SRP28 have been modified to deal with two biases revealed by the study conducted by the BIPM and the NIST [4]. In 2009, an “SRP upgrade kit” was installed in the instruments, as described in the report [5].

### 12.4. Uncertainty budget of the common reference BIPM-SRP27

The uncertainty budget for the ozone amount-of-substance fraction in dry air ( $x$ ) measured by the instruments BIPM-SRP27 and BIPM-SRP28 in the range from 0 nmol/mol to 500 nmol/mol is given in Table 1.

**Table 1: Uncertainty budget for the SRPs maintained by the BIPM**

| Component ( $y$ )                                   | Uncertainty $u(y)$       |              |  |  | Sensitivity coefficient<br>$c_i = \frac{\partial x}{\partial y}$ | contribution to $u(x)$<br>$ c_i  \cdot u(y)$<br>nmol/mol |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
|   | Source                   | Distribution | Standard Uncertainty                             | Combined standard uncertainty $u(y)$             |  |  |
| <b>Optical Path</b><br>$L_{opt}$                    | Measurement scale        | Rectangular  | 0.0006 cm  | 0.52 cm  | $-\frac{x}{L_{opt}}$   | $2.89 \times 10^{-3}x$                                   |
|   | Repeatability            | Normal       | 0.01 cm  |  |  |  |
|   | Correction factor        | Rectangular  | 0.52 cm  |  |  |  |
| <b>Pressure <math>P</math></b>                      | Pressure gauge           | Rectangular  | 0.029 kPa  | 0.034 kPa  | $-\frac{x}{P}$   | $3.37 \times 10^{-4}x$                                   |
|   | Difference between cells | Rectangular  | 0.017 kPa  |  |  |  |
| <b>Temperature <math>T</math></b>                   | Temperature probe        | Rectangular  | 0.03 K   | 0.07 K   | $\frac{x}{T}$  | $2.29 \times 10^{-4}x$                                   |
|   | Temperature gradient     | Rectangular  | 0.058 K  |  |  |  |
| <b>Ratio of intensities <math>D</math></b>          | Scaler resolution        | Rectangular  | $8 \times 10^{-6}$                               | $1.4 \times 10^{-5}$                             | $\frac{x}{D \ln(D)}$   | 0.28   |
|   | Repeatability            | Triangular   | $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$                             |  |  |  |
| <b>Absorption Cross section <math>\sigma</math></b> | Hearn value              |              | $1.22 \times 10^{-19}$ cm <sup>2</sup> /molecule | $1.22 \times 10^{-19}$ cm <sup>2</sup> /molecule | $-\frac{x}{\alpha}$  | $1.06 \times 10^{-2}x$                                   |

As explained in the protocol of the comparison, following this budget the standard uncertainty associated with the ozone amount-of-substance fraction measurement with the BIPM SRPs can be expressed as a numerical equation (numerical values expressed as nmol/mol):

$$u(x) = \sqrt{(0.28)^2 + (2.92 \cdot 10^{-3} x)^2} \quad (6)$$

### 12.5. Covariance terms for the common reference BIPM-SRP27

As explained in section 14, correlations in between the results of two measurements performed at two different ozone amount-of-substance fractions with BIPM-SRP27 were taken into account using the software OzonE. Details about the analysis of the covariance can be found in the protocol. The following expression was applied:

$$u(x_i, x_j) = x_i \cdot x_j \cdot u_b^2 \quad (7)$$

where:

$$u_b^2 = \frac{u^2(\mathbf{T})}{T^2} + \frac{u^2(\mathbf{P})}{P^2} + \frac{u^2(\mathbf{L}_{\text{opt}})}{L_{\text{opt}}^2} \quad (8)$$

The value of  $u_b$  is given by the expression of the measurement uncertainty:  $u_b = 2.92 \times 10^{-3}$ .

#### 12.6. Condition of the VSL UMEG-26

The UMEG-26 maintained by the VSL implements the same measurement principle as the NIST-SRP, with different technical choices. More information is provided in appendix 1.

Before the comparison reported here, the UMEG-26 had been compared with SRP27 on three occasions since the pilot study CCQM-P28 performed in 2004 [1, 6, 7]. All comparisons showed a good agreement between the two standards. Prior to this exercise, in November 2015, a comparison was performed at the BIPM, the results of which were not reported in a BIPM.QM-K1 report. During that comparison, a positive offset of about 1 nmol mol<sup>-1</sup> was observed between the UMEG-26 and SRP27. This was spotted during the measurements, leading to a rejection of the results. On return, VSL staff further investigated the issue and confirmed the reason for the offset. It was decided to repeat the comparison in the present exercise.

#### 12.7. Uncertainty budget of the VSL UMEG-26

The uncertainty budget for the ozone mole fraction in dry air  $x$  measured by VSL standard UMEG-26 in the range from 0 nmol/mol to 500 nmol/mol is given in Table 2. More information is provided in appendix 1.

Following this budget, the standard uncertainty associated with the ozone mole fraction measurement with the UMEG-26 can be expressed as a numerical equation (numerical values expressed in nmol/mol):

$$u_c = \sqrt{0.35^2 + (0.0025x)^2} \quad (9)$$

where

$x$  is the ozone mole fraction in nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup>.

No covariance term for the UMEG-26 was included in the calculations.

**Table 2: Uncertainty budget for the UMEG-26**

| component<br>$x_i$   | Value                                   | distribution | Standard<br>uncertainty<br>$u(x_i)$     | Sensitivity<br>coefficient<br>$\partial y/\partial x_i$ | Contribution<br>$u_i(C)$ |
|----------------------|---|--------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| $p$                  | 101.325 kPa                             | normal       | 1.5 hPa                                 | $-y/P$  | 0.0015. y                |
| $T$                  | 301 K                                   | normal       | 0.153 K                                 | $y/T$   | 0.00051. y               |
| $L_{\text{cell}}$    | 2.655 m                                 | normal       | 0.005 m                                 | $-y/L$  | 0.0019. y                |
| $\alpha$             | 1.34 atm <sup>-1</sup> .m <sup>-1</sup> | normal       | 0.01 atm <sup>-1</sup> .m <sup>-1</sup> | $y/\alpha$  | Not relevant here        |
| $I_{\text{reading}}$ | reading                                 | normal       | 0.35 ppb                                | 1   | 0.35 ppb                 |
| <b>Interf.</b>       | 0 ppb                                   | normal       | 0 ppb                                   | 1   | 0 ppb                    |

### 13. Measurement results and uncertainties

Details of the measurement results, the measurement uncertainties and the standard deviations at each nominal ozone amount-of-substance fraction are provided in appendix (form BIPM.QM-K1-R1-VSL-).

### 14. Analysis of the measurement results by generalised least-square regression

The relationship between the national and reference standards was first evaluated with a generalised least-square regression fit, using the software OzonE. This software, which is documented in a publication [8], is an extension of the previously used software B\_Least recommended by the ISO 6143:2001 [9]. It includes the possibility to take into account correlations between measurements performed with the same instrument at different ozone amount-of-substance fractions. It also facilitates the use of a transfer standard, by handling of unavoidable correlations, which arise since this instrument needs to be calibrated by the reference standard.

In a direct comparison, a linear relationship between the ozone amount-of-substance fractions measured by the instrument  $i$  and SRP27 is obtained:

$$x_i = a_0 + a_1 x_{\text{SRP27}} \quad (10)$$

The associated uncertainties on the slope  $u(a_1)$  and the intercept  $u(a_0)$  are given by OzonE, as well as the covariance between them and the usual statistical parameters to validate the fitting function.

#### 14.1. Least-squares regression results



The two relationships between UMEG-26 and SRP27 is:

$$x_{UMEG26} = 0.9997x_{SRP27} + 0.06 \quad (11)$$

The standard uncertainties on the parameters of the regression are  $u(a_1) = 0.0033$  for the slope and  $u(a_0) = 0.24$  nmol/mol for the intercept. The covariance between the two parameters is  $\text{cov}(a_0, a_1) = -2.33 \times 10^{-4}$ .

The least-squares regression results confirm that a linear fit is appropriate, with a sum of the squared deviations (SSD) of 0.25 and a goodness of fit (GoF) equals to 0.23.

To assess the agreement of the standards using equations 11 and 12, the difference between the calculated slope value and unity, and the intercept value and zero, together with their measurement uncertainties need to be considered. In this comparison, the value of the intercept is not consistent with an intercept of zero, considering the uncertainty in the value of this parameter; i.e.  $|a_0| < 2u(a_0)$ , and the value of the slope is consistent with a slope of 1; i.e.  $|1 - a_1| < 2u(a_1)$ .

## 15. Degrees of equivalence

Degrees of equivalence are calculated at two nominal ozone amount-of-substance fractions among the twelve measured in each comparison, in the range from 0 nmol/mol to 500 nmol/mol: 80 nmol/mol and 420 nmol/mol. These values correspond to points number 3 and 4 recorded in each comparison. As an ozone generator has limited reproducibility, the ozone amount-of-substance fractions measured by the ozone standards can differ from the nominal values. However, as stated in the protocol, the value measured by the common reference SRP27 was expected to be within  $\pm 15$  nmol/mol of the nominal value. Hence, it is meaningful to compare the degree of equivalence calculated for all the participants at the same nominal value.

### 15.1. Definition of the degrees of equivalence

The degree of equivalence of the participant  $i$ , at a nominal value  $x_{\text{nom}}$  is defined as:

$$D_i = x_i - x_{\text{SRP27}} \quad (12)$$

where  $x_i$  and  $x_{\text{SRP27}}$  are the measurement result of the participant  $i$  and of SRP27 at the nominal value  $x_{\text{nom}}$ .

Its associated standard uncertainty is:

$$u(D_i) = \sqrt{u_i^2 + u_{\text{SRP27}}^2} \quad (13)$$

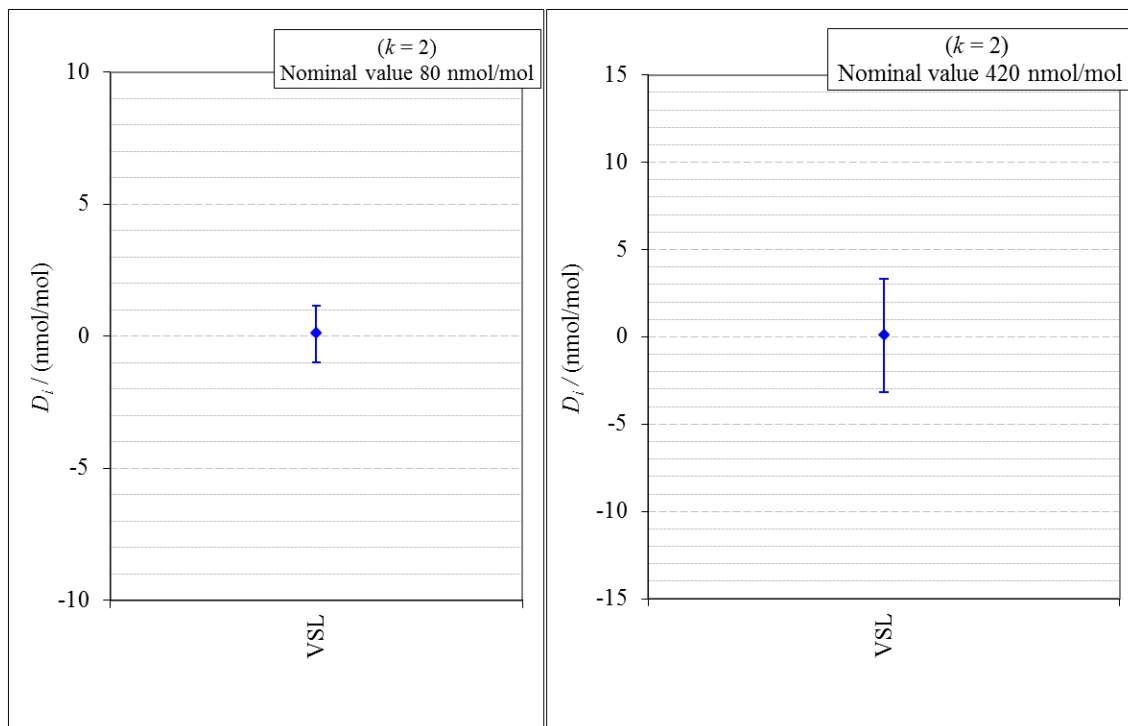
where  $u_i$  and  $u_{\text{SRP27}}$  are the measurement uncertainties of the participant  $i$  and of SRP27 respectively.

### 15.2. Values of the degrees of equivalence

The degrees of equivalence and their uncertainties calculated in the form BIPM.QM-K1-R1-VSL- are reported in the table below. Corresponding graphs of equivalence are displayed in Figure 1. The expanded uncertainties are calculated with a coverage factor  $k = 2$ .

**Table 3 : degrees of equivalence of the VSL at the ozone nominal amount-of-substance fractions 80 nmol/mol and 420 nmol/mol**

| Nominal value / (nmol/mol) | $x_i /$ (nmol/mol) | $u_i /$ (nmol/mol) | $x_{\text{SRP27}} /$ (nmol/mol) | $u_{\text{SRP27}} /$ (nmol/mol) | $D_i /$ (nmol/mol) | $u(D_i) /$ (nmol/mol) | $U(D_i) /$ (nmol/mol) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 80                         | 78.25              | 0.40               | 78.16                           | 0.36                            | 0.09               | 0.54                  | 1.08                  |
| 420                        | 408.63             | 1.07               | 408.55                          | 1.23                            | 0.08               | 1.63                  | 3.25                  |

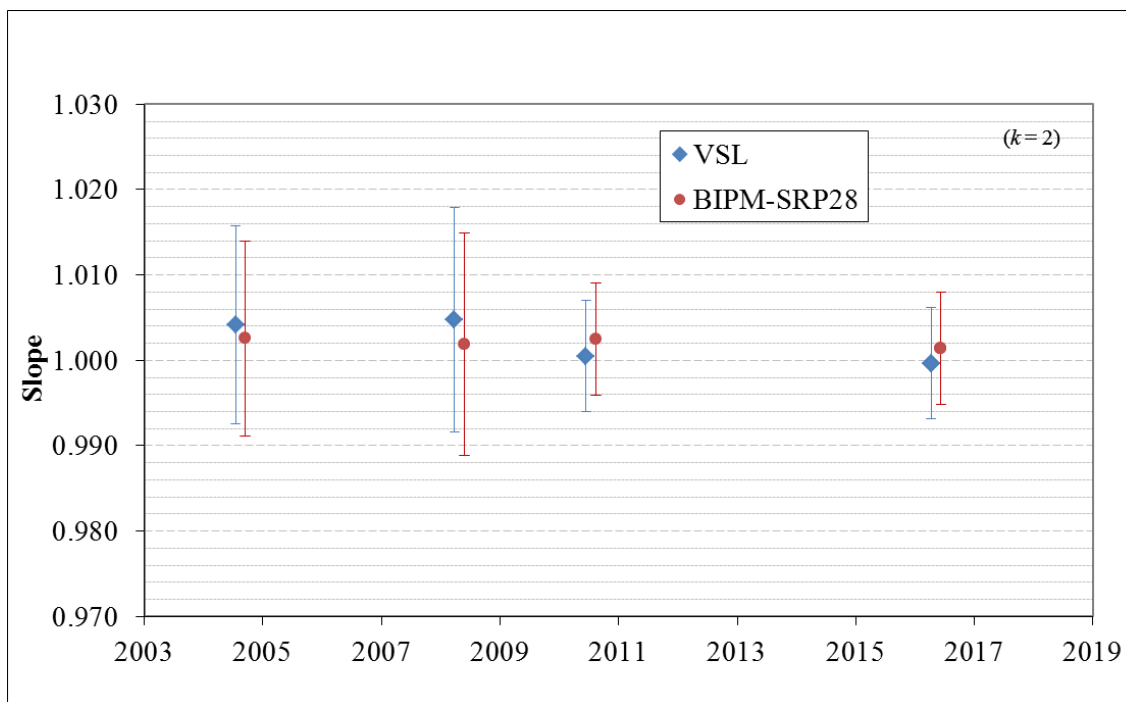


**Figure 1: degrees of equivalence of the VSL at the two nominal ozone amount-of-substance fractions 80 nmol/mol and 420 nmol/mol**

The degrees of equivalence between the VSL standard and the common reference standard BIPM SRP27 indicate good agreement between the standards. A discussion on the relation between degrees of equivalence and CMC statements can be found in [1].

## 16. History of comparisons between BIPM SRP27, SRP28 and VSL UMEG-26

Results of the previous comparison performed with VSL during the pilot study CCQM-P28 and the first cycle of the key comparison BIPM.QM-K1 are displayed in Figure 2 together with the results of this comparison. The slopes  $a_1$  of the linear relation  $x_i = a_0 + a_1 x_{\text{SRP27}}$  are represented together with their associated uncertainties calculated at the time of each comparison. Results of previous comparisons have been corrected to take into account the changes in the reference BIPM-SRP27 described in [5], which explains the larger uncertainties associated with the corresponding slopes. Figure 2 shows that all standards included in these comparisons stayed in close agreement.



**Figure 2 : Results of previous comparisons between SRP27, SRP28 and VSL-UMEG-26 realised at the BIPM. Uncertainties are calculated at  $k = 2$ , with the uncertainty budget in use at the time of each comparison.**

## 17. Summary of previous comparisons included in BIPM.QM-K1

The comparison with VSL is the thirteenth one in the 2013-2016 round of BIPM.QM-K1. An updated summary of BIPM.QM-K1 results can be found in the BIPM key comparison database: <http://kcdb.bipm.org/appendixB/>.

## 18. Conclusion

For the third time since the launch of the ongoing key comparison BIPM.QM-K1, a comparison has been performed between the ozone national standard of the Netherlands maintained by the VSL and the common reference standard of the key comparison maintained by the BIPM. The instruments have been compared over a ozone amount-of-substance fraction range from 0 nmol/mol to 500 nmol/mol. Degrees of equivalence of this comparison indicated very good agreement between the two standards.

## 19. References

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- [6] Viallon J., Moussay P., Idrees F., Wielgosz R., Heikens D. and Wessel R., 2011, Final report on the ongoing key comparison BIPM.QM-K1: Ozone at ambient level, comparison with VSL (December 2010), *Metrologia*, **48, Tech. Suppl.**, 08008
- [7] Viallon J., Moussay P., Wielgosz R., Wessel R. and Heikens D., 2010, Final report on the on-going key comparison BIPM.QM-K1: Ozone at ambient level, comparison with VSL, 2008, *Metrologia*, **47**, 08024
- [8] Bremser W., Viallon J. and Wielgosz R.I., 2007, Influence of correlation on the assessment of measurement result compatibility over a dynamic range, *Metrologia*, **44**, 495-504
- [9] ISO 6143 : 2001 Gas analysis - Determination of the composition of calibration gas mixtures - Comparison methods (International Organization for Standardization)

## Appendix 1 - Uncertainty evaluation of the UMEG-26 photometer

*Dita Heikens, Adriaan van der Veen*

The equation used for calculating the measured amount-of-substance fraction of ozone in nmol/mol is:

$$x = \frac{1}{\alpha_x L} \frac{p_0}{p} \frac{T}{T_0} \ln \frac{I_0}{I}$$

where the symbols have the following meaning

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| $x$        | Mole fraction ozone   |
| $\alpha_x$ | linear absorption coefficient at standard conditions (30832 m <sup>-1</sup> ) |
| $L$        | optical path length   |
| $p$        | pressure during measurement   |
| $p_0$      | standard pressure (101.325 kPa)   |
| $T$        | temperature during measurement  |
| $T_0$      | standard temperature (273.15 K)   |
| $I$        | intensity of signal (ozone air mixture)                                       |
| $I_0$      | intensity of the signal (zero gas)  |

### 1. Analyses of the uncertainty in the calibration of the UMEG photometer

#### 1.1. Temperature

The UMEG photometer has a built-in temperature sensor. This sensor is checked annually against a calibrated thermistor with a resolution of 0.01 K. The probability distribution of the readings is rectangular resulting in a standard uncertainty of 0.0058 K. The thermistors are calibrated every two years. The total or expanded uncertainty given in the calibration certificate is 0.01 K. This implies a standard uncertainty of 0.005 K. The differences in reading between the calibrated thermistor and the UMEG temperature sensor in the measuring cell are within  $\pm 0.2$  K; this results in a standard uncertainty of 0.1 K. Finally, due to the length of the cuvet the effect of a temperature gradient should be included. This effect is assumed to be within  $\pm 0.2$  K, with an approximately rectangular distribution; this results in a standard uncertainty of 0.115 K. The combined standard uncertainty in the readings of the temperature of the UMEG primary UV photometer is:

| Variable<br>$X_i$ | Source      | Uncertainty | Distribution | Standard<br>uncertainty<br>$u(x_i)$ | Sensitivity<br>coefficient<br>$c_i$ | Uncertainty<br>contribution<br>$u_i(y)$ |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| $T$               | Resolution  | 0.01 K      | Rectangular  | 0.153 K                             | $x/T$                               | $5.08 \cdot 10^{-4} \cdot x$            |
|                   | Calibration | 0.01 K      | Normal       |                                     |                                     |   |
|                   | Reading     | 0.2 K       | Normal       |                                     |                                     |   |
|                   | Gradient    | 0.2 K       | Rectangular  |                                     |                                     |   |

## 1.2. Optical path length

The UMEG measuring cell consists of two glass tubes with an inner diameter of 8.5 mm and a length of 130 cm. These tubes are connected via deviating mirrors so that an optical path length ( $L$ ) of 265.5 cm is obtained. The standard uncertainty for the optical path length is 0.5 cm.

$$u_L = 0.005 \text{ m}$$

## 1.3. Pressure

The pressure indicator located on the UMEG primary photometer is checked for consistency every year against a calibrated pressure indicator. The pressure indicator in the laboratory is calibrated once every year. The total or expanded uncertainty given in the calibration certificate is 0.1 hPa, giving a standard uncertainty of 0.05 hPa. The pressure indicator on the photometer has a scale division of 0.1 hPa and a resolution of 0.1 hPa. The probability distribution of the readings is rectangular with a standard deviation of 0.058 hPa. The differences in the readings of the calibrated barometer and the pressure sensor in the measuring cell are within  $\pm 3$  hPa, with an approximately triangular distribution; this results in a standard uncertainty of 1.22 hPa. The combined uncertainty in the readings of the reference barometer is:

| Variable<br>$X_i$ | Source      | Uncertainty | Distribution | Standard<br>uncertainty<br>$u(x_i)$ | Sensitivity<br>coefficient<br>$c_i$ | Uncertainty<br>contribution<br>$u_i(y)$ |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| $p$               | Resolution  | 0.1 hPa     | Rectangular  | 1.5 hPa                             | $x/p$                               | $1.48 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot x$            |
|                   | Calibration | 0.1 hPa     | Normal       |                                     |                                     |   |
|                   | Reading     | 3 hPa       | Normal       |                                     |                                     |   |

## 1.4. Interferents

It is known that different gasses interfere with the UV photometric method. The air used for generating the Ozone atmosphere is identical to the reference air and therefore the amount of interferers is presumed equal. According to the zero air instruction manual the interferents of interest will be present in concentrations less than 5 ppb. It is assumed that the Zero air used for our experiments contains  $2 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  of nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ). From [1] it is known that  $2 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  gives an interference of  $0.004 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  amount-of-substance fraction of equivalent ozone in air and we obtain an uncertainty of  $u(\text{NO}_x) = 0.004/\sqrt{6} = 0.0016 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ . For sulphur dioxide, less than  $1 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  is assumed to be present in Zero air. From previous experiments [2] an interference of  $3.4 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  of Ozone in air with  $300 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  of sulphur dioxide, estimates an interference of  $0.011 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  of equivalent Ozone corresponding to the measured  $1 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  of sulphur dioxide. The uncertainty contribution is  $u(\text{SO}_2) = 0.011/\sqrt{6} = 0.0046 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ . The presence of Ozone in the reference air is estimated to be less than  $1 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ . In this case, the uncertainty is  $u(\text{O}_3) = 1/\sqrt{6} = 0.41 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$  for the amount-of-substance fraction of ozone in air. Regarding the presence of other interfering (ozone precursors) compounds like toluene and styrene we estimate them to have an uncertainty incline towards 0.

However, interferents do not have to be taken in account in the uncertainty calculation. The contribution to the measurement signal of zero air is equal to the measurement signal of Ozone containing air. We are assuming 0 ppb - 1 ppb Ozone as background. When the background is constant, it will not contribute to the final result. If the background is fluctuating between 0 ppb and 1 ppb Ozone the effect will be negligible because the average

of 10 measurements is used to calculate the actual Ozone concentration and the effect is already included in the display reading uncertainty.

### 1.5. Reading uncertainty of the UMEG photometer

The reading uncertainty is calculated from the observed standard deviation during the measurements. For the three measurement runs the mean absolute standard deviation is 0.6 ppb. If we divide this by  $n$  the additional contribution is 0.35 ppb.

### 1.6. Evaluated standard uncertainty in the primary Ozone photometer

In table 1 the uncertainties are listed for the primary photometer.

The combined evaluation of the standard uncertainty in the primary photometer is determined by calculation of the influence of the separate parameters on the measurement result of concentration of Ozone. The evaluated standard uncertainty is calculated from the equation:

$$u_c = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^8 \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right)^2 \cdot u^2(x_i)} \quad (1)$$

Table 1. Uncertainty table for primary Ozone measurements

| component<br>$x_i$   | Value                               | distribution | Standard<br>uncertainty<br>$u(x_i)$         | Sensitivity<br>coefficient<br>$\partial y / \partial x_i$ | Contribution<br>$u_i(C)$ |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| $P$                  | 101.325 kPa                         | normal       | 1.5 hPa                                     | $-x/P$  | 0.0015. $x$              |
| $T$                  | 301.00 K                            | normal       | 0.15 K                                      | $x/T$   | 0.00051. $x$             |
| $L_{\text{cell}}$    | 2.655 m                             | normal       | 0.005 m                                     | $-x/L$  | 0.0019. $x$              |
| $\alpha$             | $11.27 \cdot 10^{-18} \text{ cm}^2$ | normal       | $0.01 \text{ atm}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$ | $x/\alpha$  | Not relevant here        |
| $I_{\text{reading}}$ | reading                             | normal       | 0.35 ppb                                    | 1   | 0.35 ppb                 |
| <b>Interf.</b>       | 0 ppb                               | normal       | 0 ppb                                       | 1   | 0 ppb                    |

The combined standard uncertainty becomes:

$$u_c = \sqrt{(0.35)^2 + (0.0015x)^2 + (0.00051x)^2 + (0.0019x)^2} \text{ ppb,}$$

where  $x$  denotes the mole fraction ozone.

## 2. References

- [1] ISO 13964:1998, Air Quality – Determination of ozone in ambient air – Ultraviolet photometric method.
- [2] Zucco M, Curci S, Castrofino G, Sassi M.P., A comprehensive analysis of the uncertainty of a commercial ozone photometer, *Meas. Sci. Technol.* 14 (2003), 1683-1689.

## **Appendix 2 - Form BIPM.QM-K1-R1-VSL-**

See the following pages.



**OZONE COMPARISON RESULT - PROTOCOL A - DIRECT  
COMPARISON**

| <b>Participating institute information</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Institute</b>                           | VSL  |
| <b>Address</b>                             | PO Box 654<br>2600 AR DELFT<br>NETHERLANDS           |
| <b>Contact</b>                             | Dita Heikens   |
| <b>Email</b>                               | <a href="mailto:dheikens@vsl.nl">dheikens@vsl.nl</a> |
| <b>Telephone</b>                           | +31152691677   |

| <b>Instruments information</b> |                           |                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                | <b>Reference Standard</b> | <b>National Standard</b> |
| <b>Manufacturer</b>            | NIST                      | UMEG                     |
| <b>Type</b>                    | SRP                       |                          |
| <b>Serial number</b>           | SRP27                     | 26                       |

| <b>Content of the report</b> |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| page 1                       | general informations   |
| page 2                       | comparison results     |
| page 3                       | measurements results   |
| page 4                       | comparison description |
| page 5                       | uncertainty budgets    |

**comparison reference standard (RS) - national standard (NS)**

|                                     |                       |                                   |                  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Operator</b>                     | F.Idrees / D. Heikens | <b>Location</b>                   | BIPM/Room CHEM09 |
| <b>Comparison begin date / time</b> | 27/09/2016 08:00      | <b>Comparison end date / time</b> | 28/09/2016 15:00 |

**Comparison results**

**Equation** 
$$x_{NS} = a_{NS,RS} x_{RS} + b_{NS,RS}$$

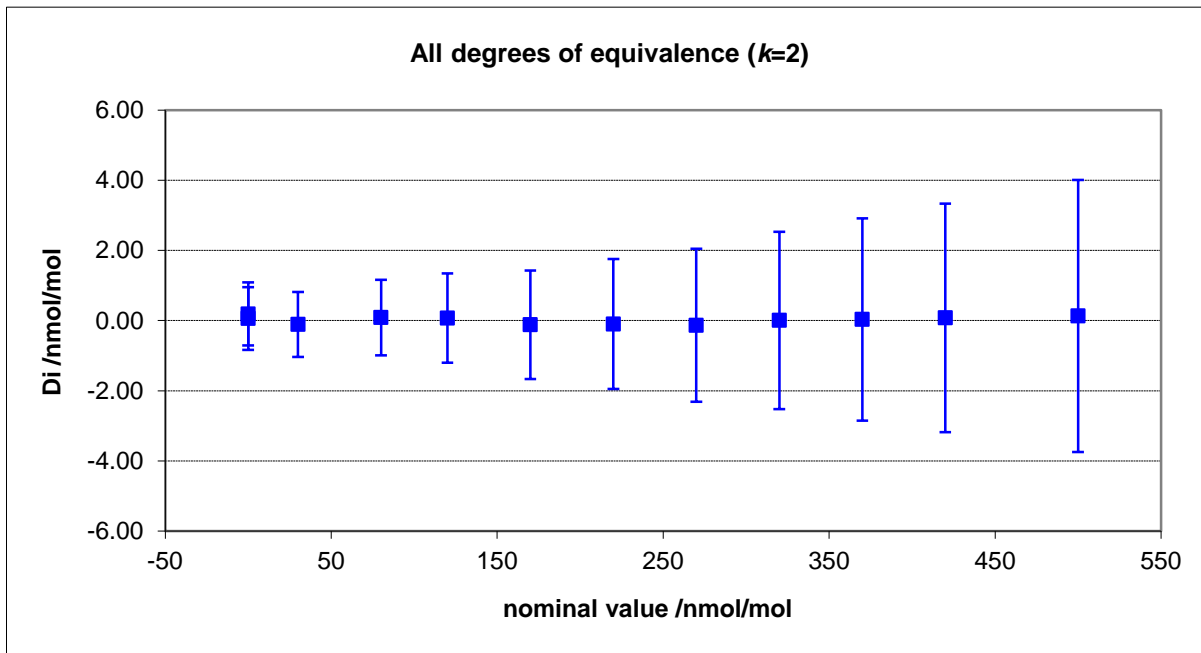
**Least-square regression parameters**

| $a_{TS,RS}$   | $u(a_{TS,RS})$ | $b_{TS,RS}$<br>(nmol/mol) | $u(b_{TS,RS})$<br>(nmol/mol) | $u(a,b)$         |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>0.9997</b> | <b>0.0033</b>  | <b>0.06</b>               | <b>0.24</b>                  | <b>-2.33E-04</b> |

*(Least-square regression parameters will be computed by the BIPM using the software OzonE v2.0)*

**Degrees of equivalence at 80 nmol/mol and 420 nmol/mol:**

| Nom value<br>(nmol/mol) | $D_i$<br>(nmol/mol) | $u(D_i)$<br>(nmol/mol) | $U(D_i)$<br>(nmol/mol) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>80</b>               | <b>0.09</b>         | <b>0.54</b>            | <b>1.08</b>            |
| <b>420</b>              | <b>0.08</b>         | <b>1.63</b>            | <b>3.25</b>            |



| <b>Measurement results</b> |                                |                      |                         |                               |                      |                         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
|                            | <b>Reference Standard (RS)</b> |                      |                         | <b>National standard (NS)</b> |                      |                         |
| <b>Nominal value</b>       | $x_{RS}$<br>nmol/mol           | $s_{RS}$<br>nmol/mol | $u(x_{RS})$<br>nmol/mol | $x_{NS}$<br>nmol/mol          | $s_{NS}$<br>nmol/mol | $u(x_{NS})$<br>nmol/mol |
| <b>0</b>                   | 0.01                           | 0.20                 | 0.28                    | 0.07                          | 0.22                 | 0.35                    |
| <b>220</b>                 | 211.57                         | 0.23                 | 0.68                    | 211.47                        | 0.40                 | 0.63                    |
| <b>80</b>                  | 78.16                          | 0.35                 | 0.36                    | 78.25                         | 0.30                 | 0.40                    |
| <b>420</b>                 | 408.55                         | 0.40                 | 1.23                    | 408.63                        | 0.20                 | 1.07                    |
| <b>120</b>                 | 117.49                         | 0.22                 | 0.44                    | 117.56                        | 0.33                 | 0.46                    |
| <b>320</b>                 | 308.21                         | 0.37                 | 0.94                    | 308.21                        | 0.40                 | 0.84                    |
| <b>30</b>                  | 30.95                          | 0.13                 | 0.29                    | 30.84                         | 0.40                 | 0.36                    |
| <b>370</b>                 | 357.84                         | 0.28                 | 1.08                    | 357.87                        | 0.36                 | 0.95                    |
| <b>170</b>                 | 164.67                         | 0.20                 | 0.56                    | 164.55                        | 0.49                 | 0.54                    |
| <b>500</b>                 | 492.42                         | 0.19                 | 1.46                    | 492.55                        | 0.64                 | 1.27                    |
| <b>270</b>                 | 259.98                         | 0.32                 | 0.81                    | 259.85                        | 0.44                 | 0.73                    |
| <b>0</b>                   | -0.26                          | 0.29                 | 0.28                    | -0.07                         | 0.52                 | 0.35                    |

| <b>Degrees of Equivalence</b> |                             |                     |                        |                        |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Point Number</b>           | <b>Nom value (nmol/mol)</b> | $D_i$<br>(nmol/mol) | $u(D_i)$<br>(nmol/mol) | $U(D_i)$<br>(nmol/mol) |
| <b>1</b>                      | <b>0</b>                    | 0.06                | 0.45                   | 0.90                   |
| <b>2</b>                      | <b>220</b>                  | -0.10               | 0.93                   | 1.85                   |
| <b>3</b>                      | <b>80</b>                   | 0.09                | 0.54                   | 1.08                   |
| <b>4</b>                      | <b>420</b>                  | 0.08                | 1.63                   | 3.25                   |
| <b>5</b>                      | <b>120</b>                  | 0.07                | 0.64                   | 1.27                   |
| <b>6</b>                      | <b>320</b>                  | 0.00                | 1.26                   | 2.52                   |
| <b>7</b>                      | <b>30</b>                   | -0.11               | 0.46                   | 0.93                   |
| <b>8</b>                      | <b>370</b>                  | 0.03                | 1.44                   | 2.88                   |
| <b>9</b>                      | <b>170</b>                  | -0.12               | 0.77                   | 1.55                   |
| <b>10</b>                     | <b>500</b>                  | 0.13                | 1.94                   | 3.88                   |
| <b>11</b>                     | <b>270</b>                  | -0.13               | 1.09                   | 2.18                   |
| <b>12</b>                     | <b>0</b>                    | 0.19                | 0.45                   | 0.90                   |

Covariance terms in between two measurement results of each standard

Equation  $u(x_i, x_j) = \alpha \cdot x_i \cdot x_j$

Value of  $\alpha$  for the reference standard 8.50E-06

Value of  $\alpha$  for the national standard 0.00E+00

| <b>Comparison conditions</b>                                 |  |
|--|--|
| Ozone generator manufacturer                                 | <a href="#">Envionics</a>  |
| Ozone generator type   | <a href="#">Model 6100</a>   |
| Ozone generator serial number                                | <a href="#">3128</a>   |
| Room temperature(min-max) / °C                               | <a href="#">19.5 - 21.9</a>  |
| Room pressure (min-max) / hpa                                | <a href="#">1018.1 - 1019.3</a>  |
| Zero air source  | <a href="#">oil free compressor + dryer+ aadco 737-R</a>   |
| Reference air flow rate (L/min)                              | <a href="#">14</a>   |
| Sample flow rate (L/min)                                     | <a href="#">10</a>   |
| Instruments stabilisation time                               | <a href="#">24 hours</a>   |
| Instruments acquisition time /s (one measurement)            | <a href="#">1s</a>   |
| Instruments averaging time /s                                | <a href="#">none</a>   |
| Total time for ozone conditioning                            | <a href="#">more than 12 hours</a>   |
| Ozone mole fraction during conditioning                      | <a href="#">500 nmol/mol</a>   |
| Comparison repeated continously (Yes/No)                     | <a href="#">No</a>   |
| If no, ozone mole fraction in between the comparison repeats | <a href="#">***</a>  |
| Total number of comparison repeats realised                  | <a href="#">3</a>  |
| Data files names and location                                | <a href="#">D:\SRP\Data\2016</a><br><a href="#">c160927001.xls, c160927002.xls, c160928001.xls</a> |

**Instruments checks and adjustments**

**Reference Standard**

As written in the procedure BIPM/CHEM-T-05

**National Standard**

**Uncertainty budgets (description or reference )**

**Reference Standard**

BIPM-SRP27 uncertainty budget is described in the protocol of this comparison: document BIPM.QM-K1 protocol, date 10 Januray 2007, available on BIPM website. It can be summarised by the formula:

$$u(x) = \sqrt{(0.28)^2 + (2,92 \cdot 10^{-3} x)^2}$$

**National Standard**

The uncertainty budget for the ozone mole fraction in dry air  $x$  measured by VSL standard UMEG-26 in the nominal range 0 nmol/mol to 500 nmol/mol is given in the table below. More information is provided in appendix 1 of the main report.

Following this budget, the standard uncertainty associated with the ozone mole fraction measurement with the UMEG-26 can be expressed as a numerical equation (numerical values expressed as nmol/mol):

where  $u_c = \sqrt{(0.35)^2 + (0.0015 x)^2 + (0.00051 x)^2 + (0.0019 x)^2}$   
 $x$  is the ozone mole fraction in nmol.mol<sup>-1</sup>.

| component $x_i$ | Value                               | distribution | Standard uncertainty $u(x_i)$               | Sensitivity coefficient $\partial y/\partial x_i$ | Contribution $u_i(C)$ |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| $P$             | 101.325 kPa                         | normal       | 1.5 hPa                                     | $-x/P$  | 0.0015. $x$           |
| $T$             | 301.00 K                            | normal       | 0.15 K                                      | $x/T$   | 0.00051. $x$          |
| $L_{cell}$      | 2.655 m                             | normal       | 0.005 m                                     | $-x/L$  | 0.0019. $x$           |
| $\alpha$        | $11.27 \cdot 10^{-18} \text{ cm}^2$ | normal       | $0.01 \text{ atm}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$ | $x/\alpha$  | Not relevant here     |
| $I_{reading}$   | reading                             | normal       | 0.35 ppb                                    | 1   | 0.35 ppb              |
| <b>Interf.</b>  | 0 ppb                               | normal       | 0 ppb                                       | 1   | 0 ppb                 |