



A Newsletter from the CIC Service Department

An Upgrade for a New Year

With the New Year upon us, it's a great time to look at the safety and sustainability of your company's application and facility.

Take a look at your LFL system to see if something can be done to improve its productivity and ultimately, its future.

- Is your system over 15 years old?
- Are you finding longer lead times and higher costs when trying to replace the necessary spare parts?
- Is there an analyzer that can provide a quicker response?
- Does your system offer you the latest in digital communication and predictive maintenance?
- Most importantly, are you operating in unsafe conditions or not up to date with current safety directives?

If you found yourself answering yes to these questions it might be time to incorporate an upgrade into your company's New Years resolutions.

An Upgrade Path

A customer of ours, who manufactures and supplies pressure sensitive film and adhesive products worldwide, had one of our legacy products installed over a decade ago to monitor the % LFL of the solvent levels in the heating process atmosphere. The system had been working great but due to its age, the necessary spare parts were becoming obsolete, which meant more time & money to replace. Since this LFL system was critical to the company's success, they decided to pursue an upgrade path to the PreVEx Flammability Analyzers.

The PreVEx is a stand-alone system that eliminates a common controller, enabling operation of each zone individually, with uninterrupted service if one system goes down.

It also offers on-board diagnostics for predictive preventative maintenance and troubleshooting, automatic calibration, automatic ignition in case of flameouts and eliminates all potentiometers and manual adjustments. To top it off, it has a quicker

response time, at less than 1-second, and in this case the existing wiring and plumbing could be used.

The Company decided to upgrade one line at a time (8 PreVEx Analyzers per line). This minimized costs and allowed them to keep production running. Within one year they completed upgrades of all their lines in all their plants.



PreVEx Flammability Analyzer

Planning for Success

A planned upgrade of 15-25 year old Gas Detection Systems will increase safety and reliability, reduce maintenance and down time, and ensure production efficiency well into the future!

Although the lifetime of an older analyzer system may span 15-25 years, and we are committed to responsibly supporting all installed equipment for as long as it can, there are significant gains to be made now by establishing a clear upgrade path.

Initiating replacement of an older system can then proceed at whatever pace is found to be suitable. At a minimum, close consideration of upgrading gives confidence that there will be no time lost when the older systems begin to reach end-of-life.

If you would like to schedule a service visit for routine maintenance and to determine what condition your analyzers are in, please contact Maria Nichols at 973.575.9114, or visit www.controlinstruments.com/forms/service-request



Menta's Musings

Service Tips from Steve Menta

The most common maintenance issues seen on older systems are low flow. This can mean either a leak or a plugged sample line. However, after an upgrade to the PreVEx Flammability Analyzers, these issues can be quickly diagnosed & addressed due to advances in digital communication and on-board diagnostics.

- **Leaks** - One of the most common issues discovered while servicing the FFA & FTA sensors are leaks in the sampling system. Unlike the PreVEx which detects leaks as a calibration failure, the FFA and FTA do not. If a leak is present the sensor's response time can increase and the calibration will be wrong. If the leak occurs when a calibration is performed, it can dilute the span gas and lead to artificially high readings. Therefore, we recommend performing a leak check twice a year. In the PreVEx, there is an advanced warning to Check the Flow, as well as a LOW FLOW Alarm.
- **Sample Clogging** - Positive zero drift immediately after zero calibration is almost always a partially plugged up sample line, this causes extra pressure in the flame cell during the zero calibration that restricts the flame. The FFA & FTA do not detect such drift, nor is there any other warning to an approaching plugged sample line; instead the FFA & FTA will fail and trip a LOW FLOW alarm. By then, it is too late, the process is down, and hours of troubleshooting must be made. Using the PreVEx with its advanced diagnostics, a zero drift can be easily detected, indicating that there is perhaps a clogged line. Disconnect the sample line and try a zero calibration, if there is no drift then the sample line is dirty. Clean the sample line (blow out with compressed air, reconnect and repeat your calibration).

