



Maryland

Department of the Environment

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Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary
Adam Ortiz, Deputy Secretary

April 28, 2026

Stephanie Mullaney
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Compliance Assurance Associates, Inc.
Email: stephanie.mullaney@compliance-assurance.com

Subject: EPA ALT-152 Method 9 Training

Ms. Mullaney:

This letter is in response to your inquiry regarding the use of VR headsets for securing a visible emissions certification in Maryland. Per the Federal Register Notice (Volume 89, Thursday, January 25, 2024), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has approved a VR headset-based method (ALT-152) as an alternative certification method for Section 3.2 of US EPA's Reference Method 9. Therefore, the Maryland Department of the Environment (Department) will accept both US EPA Reference Method 9 and ALT-152 (VR-based headset) as acceptable methods of certification for conducting any federal or state-required visible emission observations (Method 9) in Maryland. When using ALT-152, there is no requirement to obtain pre-approval from the Department or to specify the method of certification in any test protocol.

If you have any further questions, please contact us by email at mdeair.othercompliance@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Steve Lang

Program Manager
Air Quality Compliance Program
Air and Radiation Administration

cc: [Angelo Bianca -MDE-](#)
[Hannah Ashenafi -MDE-](#)