Molecular Property Spectrometer™
MPS™ Mini Flammable Gas Sensor

OVERVIEW

NevadaNano's MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor is the next generation of gas detection and quantification for worker safety and leak detection in drilling, transportation, and production of oil & gas and chemical products. The smart sensor quickly detects and accurately quantifies myriad flammable gases and gas mixtures using a standard factory calibration. It has built-in environmental compensation and automatic self-testing for fail-safe operation. It is intrinsically safe, robust, and extremely poison resistant. Sensor readings are output on a digital bus or configurable analog output – no added electronics are required. With no field calibration required, the MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor delivers industry-leading performance and a low cost of ownership.

TrueLEL™ GAS DETECTION

Gas	Formula	Detection Range	Accuracy (0–50 %LEL)
butane	C_4H_{10}	0–100 %LEL	±5 %LEL
ethane	C_2H_6	0–100 %LEL	±6 %LEL
ethylene	C_2H_4	0–100 %LEL	±10 %LEL
hydrogen	**H_2**	**0–100 %LEL**	**±5 %LEL**
isobutane	C_4H_{10}	0–100 %LEL	±5 %LEL
isobutylene	C_4H_8	0–100 %LEL	±5 %LEL
isopropanol	C_3H_8O	0–100 %LEL	±5 %LEL
methane	**CH_4**	**0–100 %LEL**	**±3 %LEL**
methyl ethyl ketone	C_4H_8O	0–100 %LEL	±5 %LEL
pentane	C_5H_{12}	0–100 %LEL	±8 %LEL
propane	C_3H_8	0–100 %LEL	±7 %LEL
propylene	C_3H_6	0–100 %LEL	±5 %LEL
toluene	C_7H_8	0–100 %LEL	±12 %LEL

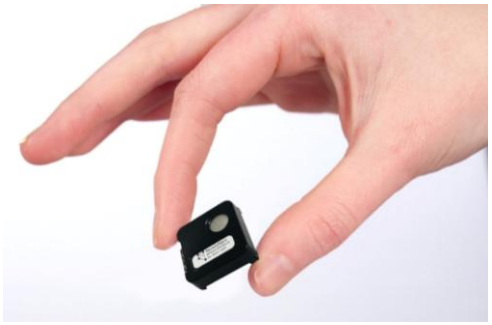
Accuracy guaranteed for methane and hydrogen across full environmental range. Other gases will typically meet the published tolerances across the full environmental range, but are guaranteed only at standard conditions[1]. The sensor is capable of detecting most common flammable gases/vapors (see page 4).

PERFORMANCE

Resolution	0.1 %LEL
Response time (T90)	<20 seconds
Calibration	Factory calibrated

ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING RANGE

Temperature	–40 to 75 °C
Humidity	0 to 100 %RH
Pressure	80 to 120 kPa



KEY FEATURES

- Automatic multi-gas accuracy in real-time
- Built-in environmental compensation
- Extremely poison resistant
- No calibration required
- Supports 15+ year lifetimes
- Low power — 29 mW average
- Built-in self-test for fail-safe operation

OPERATING PRINCIPLE

The MPS transducer is a patented micromachined membrane with an embedded Joule heater and resistance thermometer. The transducer is mounted on a PCB and packaged inside a rugged enclosure open to ambient air. Presence of a flammable gas causes changes in the thermodynamic properties of the air/gas mixture that are measured by the transducer. Sensor data are processed by patented algorithms to report an accurate concentration and classify the flammable gas.

NOTES

[1] Standard conditions: 20 °C, 50 %RH

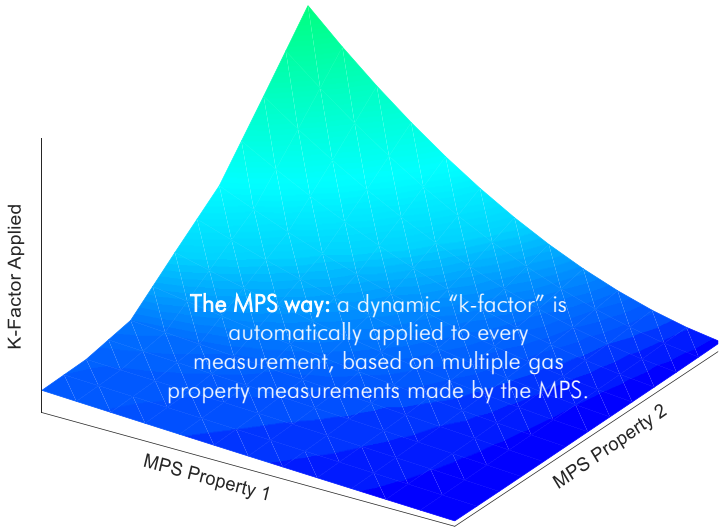
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GAS CLASSIFICATION

The old way: Conventional sensing technologies (e.g. catalytic bead, NDIR) use a "k-factor" multiplier to convert raw sensor signals to gas concentrations in %LEL. These "k-factors" are based on known relative sensitivities of these sensors to different gases. A single "k-factor," corresponding to a particular gas, must be selected manually during system setup. When the sensor is later exposed to any gas other than the one selected, significant errors in reported concentration can occur.

The MPS way: The MPS sensor applies conversion factors automatically and in real-time, based on the "live" measured thermal properties of the ambient air/gas and the current environmental conditions. The %LEL values reported for the bulk, which may contain a mixture of gases, achieve the same high levels of accuracy as those achieved with single gases.

The sensor also automatically outputs the class of flammable gas present, in the following categories:



CLASS 1: Hydrogen
Molecular Weight: 2.0 [g/mol]
Density: 0.09 [kg/m^3]
Number of Carbons: 0

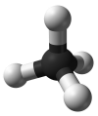


CLASS 2: Hydrogen Mixture
Avg. Mol. Weight: 1-14 [g/mol]
Avg. Density: 0.1-0.6 [kg/m^3]
Number of Carbons: varies


+ HC

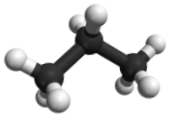
This classification is unique as it guarantees the presence of hydrogen and another flammable gas

CLASS 3: Methane/Natural Gas
Avg. Mol. Weight: 16 to 19 [g/mol]
Avg. Density: 0.6-0.9 [kg/m^3]
Typical Number of Carbons: 0-2

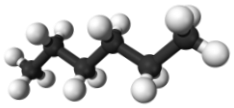


Gases having molecular properties similar to that of methane may be classified as methane (e.g. ammonia, acetylene)

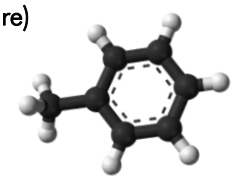
CLASS 4: Light Gas (or Light Gas Mixture)
Avg. Mol. Weight: 25 to 75 [g/mol]
Avg. Density: 1.2-2.5 [kg/m^3]
Typical Number of Carbons: 1-4
Example Gases: Ethane, Propane, Isopropanol



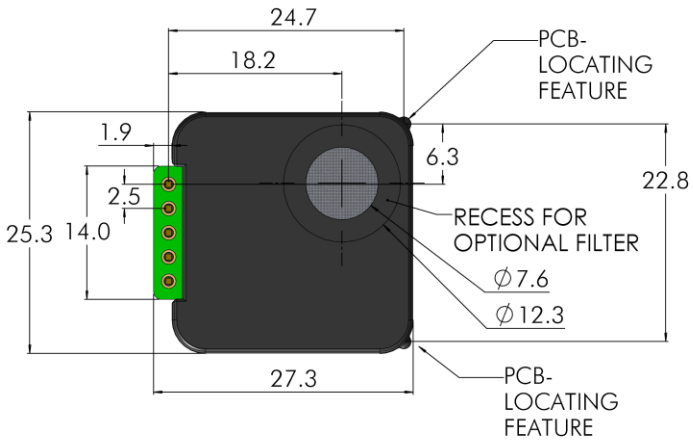
CLASS 5: Medium Gas (or Medium Gas Mixture)
Avg. Mol. Weight: 50 to 120 [g/mol]
Avg. Density: 1.5-4.0 [kg/m^3]
Typical Number of Carbons: 2-8
Example Gas: Pentane

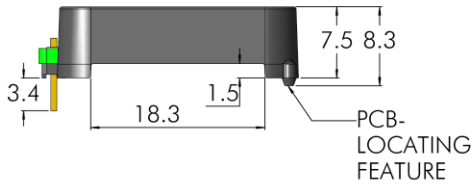


CLASS 6: Heavy Gas (or Heavy Gas Mixture)
Avg. Mol. Weight: 80+ [g/mol]
Avg. Density: 3.5+ [kg/m^3]
Typical Number of Carbons: 6+
Example Gases: Octane, Toluene, Xylene



MECHANICAL



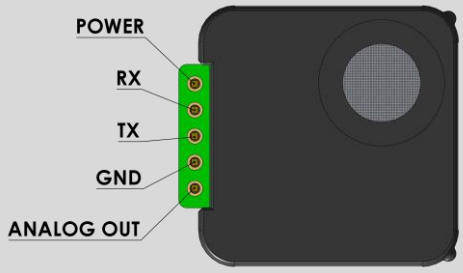


Dimensions in mm

Mass	4.3 ± 0.5 grams
Body material	PEI

ELECTRICAL

Operating voltage	3.3–5.0 ±5 % VDC	
Current consumption	**Average** 8.9 mA	**Operating Range** 5.0–21.0 mA



Communication: UART
Logic signaling standard: 3.3 V
Baud rate: 38,400. 8 data, 1 stop bits. No parity.
RX Data Input: Do not exceed 3.6 V
Input High Voltage = 2.0 V minimum
Input Low Voltage = 0.85 V maximum
TX Data Output: Source / Sink 4 mA maximum
Output High Voltage = 2.45 V minimum
Output Low Voltage = 0.45 V maximum
Programmable analog output (optional)

Analog voltage output (“Analog Out”)	Industry standard 0.4 to 2.0 Volt linearized, compensated for temperature, humidity and pressure. Alternate configurations available, with output range and “zero” configurable between 0.04 to 2.9 Volts and configurable sensitivity slope, including rising or falling Volts per %LEL. Contact NevadaNano for details.

SELF-DIAGNOSTICS

The MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor automatically performs a comprehensive sequence of self-checks every 2 seconds during operation to ensure fail-safe operation. The MPS alerts the user of any sensor failure or status alert. For additional information on how to interpret and handle detected faults, refer to the MPS Flammable Gas Sensor User Manual at www.nevadanano.com/downloads

FLAMMABLE GASES DETECTED

The volume percentage (%VOL) corresponding to 100 %LEL for a given gas varies across regions and standards due to differences in criteria, including the methods used for ignition and for the determination of an explosion. The MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor is factory calibrated to achieve the accuracy levels shown below without any further recalibration or adjustment. The 5-pin digital version of the sensor can be queried via UART to report %LEL concentrations predominately aligned with either (a) ISO 10156:1996 or (b) IEC60079-20-1 and companion specification EN61779 (note, the IEC output is the ISO output multiplied by 1.136).

The MPS is confirmed to detect a variety of other gases not shown in the table below. These include: 1-butene, acetone, acetylene, ammonia, cyclohexane, decane, diesel, dimethyl carbonate, ethanol, gasoline vapors, hexane, and methanol. The sensor does not provide TrueLEL accuracy to these gases and will systematically over- or under-report, depending on the gas, and special precautions should be taken when using the MPS to detect these gases. Contact NevadaNano for more information.

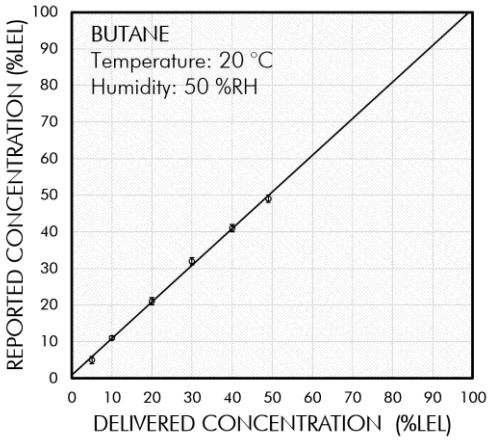
Gas	Formula	Class	Detection Range [%LEL]	% Volume of gas at 100 %LEL (ISO 10156)	MPS Accuracy 0 to 50 %LEL (ISO 10156)	% Volume of gas at 100 %LEL (IEC60079-20-1)	MPS Accuracy 0 to 50 %LEL (IEC60079-20-1)
butane	C_4H_{10}	4-5	0–100	1.8 %VOL	±5 %LEL	1.4 %VOL	±8 %LEL
ethane	C_2H_6	4	0–100	3.0 %VOL	±6 %LEL	2.5 %VOL	±5 %LEL
ethylene	C_2H_4	4	0–100	2.7 %VOL	±10 %LEL	2.3 %VOL	±11 %LEL
heptane	C_7H_{16}	6	0–100	1.1 %VOL	−14 %LEL	0.85 %VOL	−19 %LEL
hydrogen	H_2	1	0–100	4.0 %VOL	±5 %LEL	4.0 %VOL	±9 %LEL
isobutane	C_4H_{10}	4	0–100	1.8 %VOL	±5 %LEL	1.3 %VOL	±12 %LEL
isobutylene	C_4H_8	4-5	0–100	1.8 %VOL	±5 %LEL	1.8 %VOL	±5 %LEL
isopropanol	C_3H_8O	4	0–100	2.0 %VOL	±5 %LEL	2.0 %VOL	±10 %LEL
methane	CH_4	3	0–100	5.0 %VOL	±3 %LEL	4.4 %VOL	±3 %LEL
methyl ethyl ketone	C_4H_8O	5	0–100	1.4 %VOL	±5 %LEL	1.5 %VOL	+17 %LEL
octane	C_8H_{18}	6	0–100	1.0 %VOL	−14 %LEL	0.8 %VOL	−17 %LEL
pentane	C_5H_{12}	5-6	0–100	1.5 %VOL	±8 %LEL	1.1 %VOL	±5 %LEL
propane	C_3H_8	4	0–100	2.1 %VOL	±7 %LEL	1.7 %VOL	±10 %LEL
propylene	C_3H_6	4	0–100	2.4 %VOL	±5 %LEL	2.0 %VOL	±5 %LEL
styrene	C_8H_8	6	0–100	1.1 %VOL	−20 %LEL	1.0 %VOL	−17 %LEL
toluene	C_7H_8	6	0–100	1.2 %VOL	±12 %LEL	1.0 %VOL	±11 %LEL
xylene	C_8H_{10}	6	0–100	1.1 %VOL	−16 %LEL	1.0 %VOL	−16 %LEL

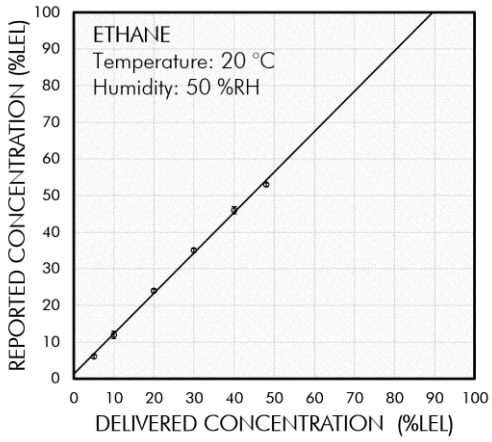
Notes:
1) Accuracy guaranteed for methane and hydrogen across full environmental range.
2) Other gases will typically meet published tolerances across the full environmental range, but guaranteed only at standard conditions of 20 °C, 50 %RH.
3) Accuracy (+) %LEL corresponds to a higher-than-delivered reading and Accuracy (−) %LEL corresponds to a lower-than-delivered reading.
4) Refer to Gas Classification section on page 2 for value descriptions. Class values shown in table will typically be accurate across the full environmental range, but were determined at standard conditions of 20 °C, 50 %RH.

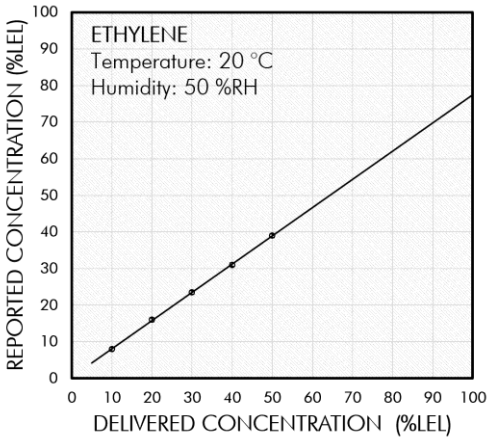
TYPICAL GAS PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

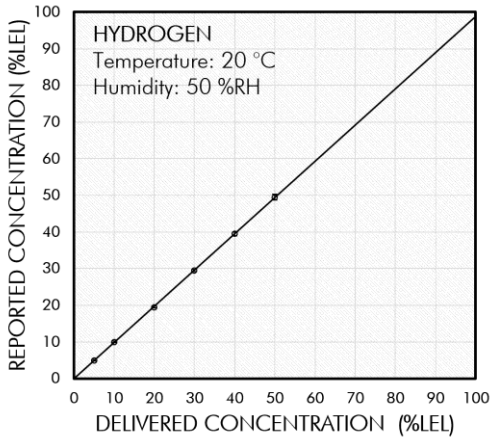
Accuracy to Representative Gases

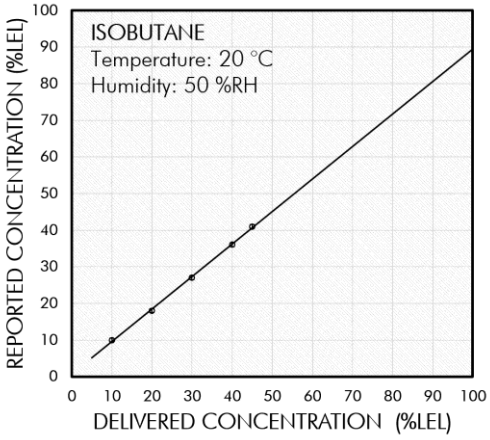
Accuracy to various gases under the environmental conditions specified is shown in the plots below. Error bars indicate the minimum and maximum readings across all sensors tested. Note: all performance data provided was collected using standard, factory-calibrated MPS sensors. No recalibration for specific gases is necessary to achieve these results.

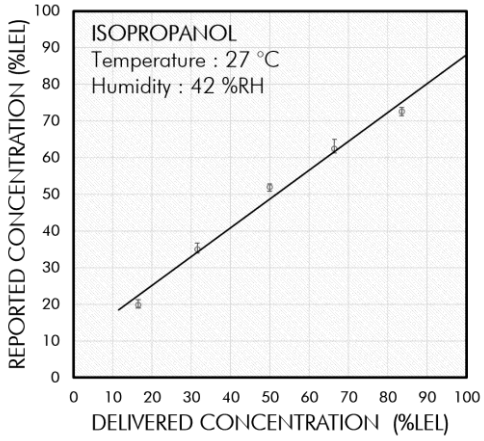








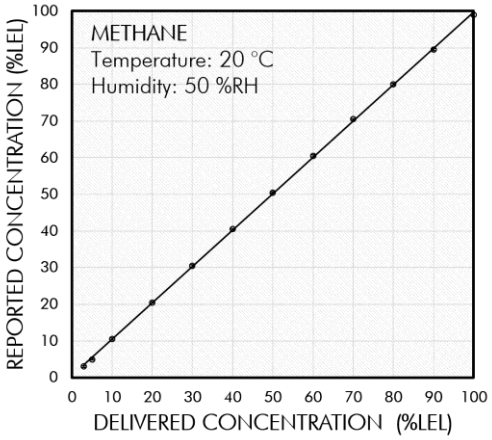


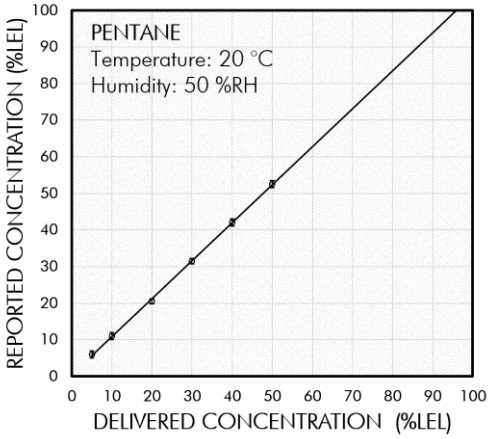


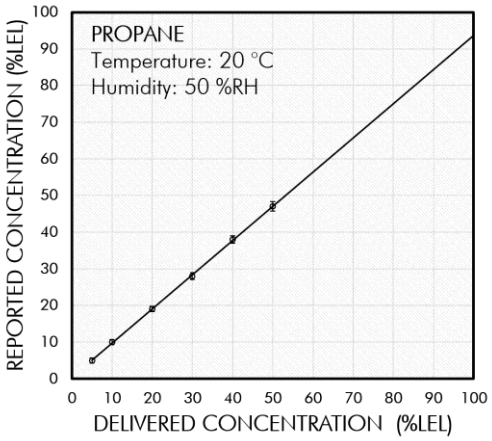
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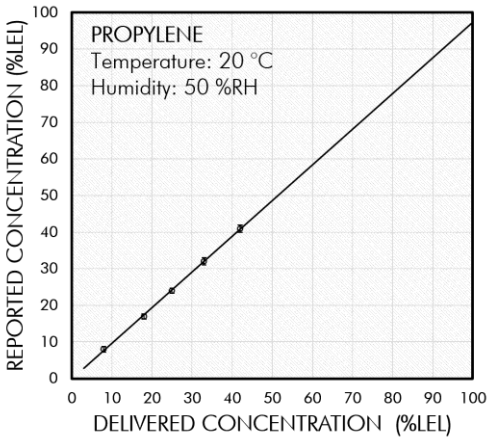
Accuracy to Representative Gases - Continued

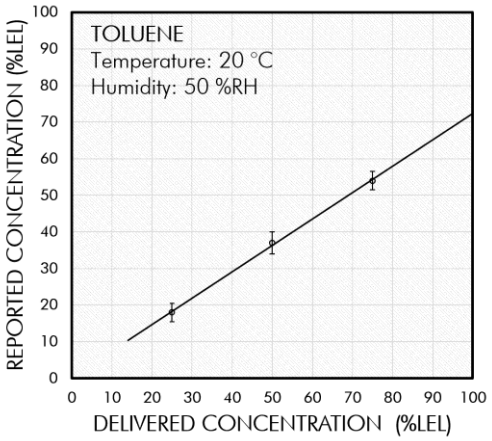
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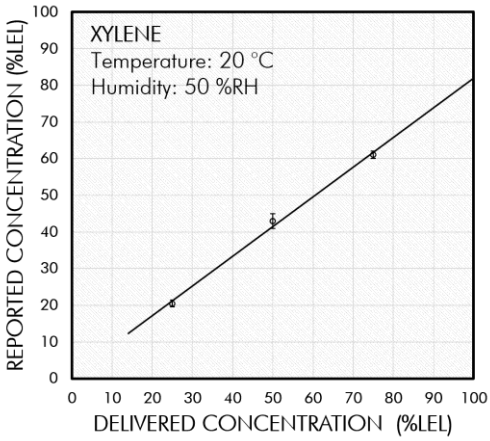






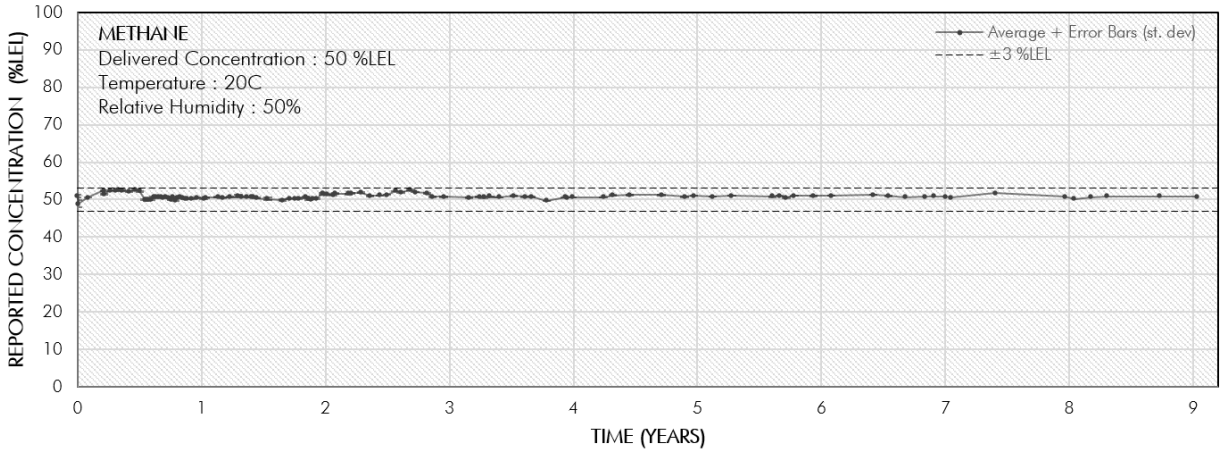






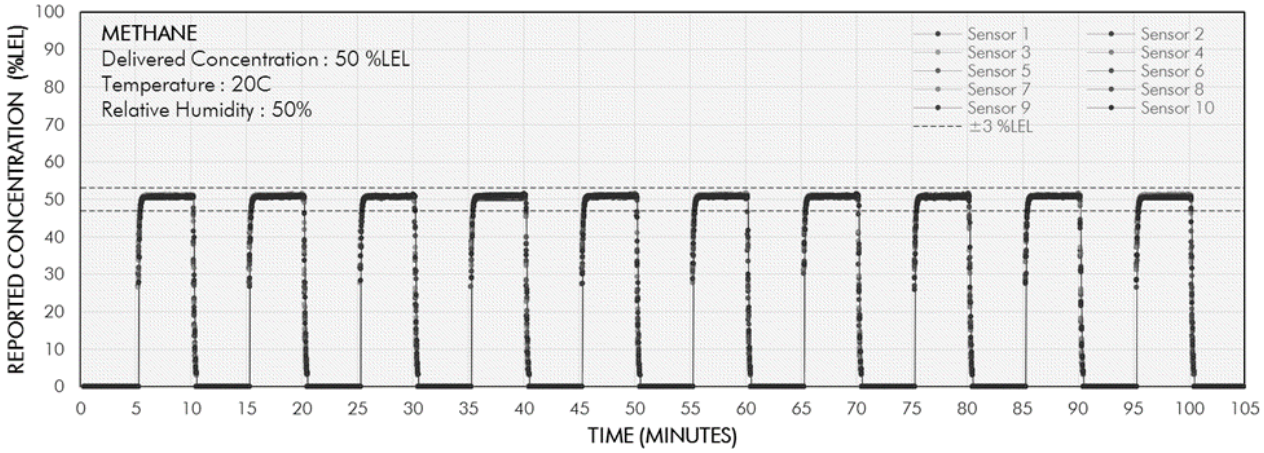
TYPICAL GAS PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Long-Term Accuracy & Stability



Average concentration reported to repeated exposures of 50 %LEL methane vs. time. Between exposures, all sensors operated continuously in clean air. During exposures, all sensors were placed in an environmental chamber set at standard conditions (20 °C, 50 %RH) where gas was delivered from a cylinder. Accuracy has remained within ±3 %LEL to date. The test is ongoing.

Repeatability



Above: methane concentration reported to 10 exposures over 100 minutes by 10 MPS sensors. Below: table shows the averages and standard deviations of the concentrations reported during this test, by sensor. Standard deviation over 10 exposures is less than 0.25 %LEL.

Sensor #	Average [%LEL]	Standard Deviation [%LEL]
Sensor 1	50.8	0.15
Sensor 2	50.5	0.18
Sensor 3	50.9	0.13
Sensor 4	50.7	0.22
Sensor 5	50.7	0.14
Sensor 6	50.7	0.13
Sensor 7	50.7	0.14
Sensor 8	50.6	0.18
Sensor 9	50.7	0.10
Sensor 10	50.6	0.17

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FLAMMABLE GASES NOT DETECTED

The MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor does not detect:

- **Carbon Monoxide (CO):** CO is a toxic gas, immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) at 1,200 ppm; the lower explosive limit is 109,000 ppm. The sensor is immune to poisoning by CO.
- **Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S):** H_2S is a toxic gas, immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) at 100 ppm; the lower explosive limit is 40,000 ppm. The sensor is immune to poisoning by H_2S.

There may be other gases the sensor does not detect that have not yet been assessed or tested. For additional information about a particular flammable gas, please contact NevadaNano.

RESPONSE TO NON-FLAMMABLE GASES

Because the MPS performs an analysis of the molecular properties of a given "air" sample, large-scale fluctuations in the relative concentrations of the components in the air can affect accuracy. False readings can occur at non-flammable gas concentration variations (from normal air) greater than about 1 %VOL (~10,000 ppm), as discussed below; accuracy of the %LEL readings can be impacted at concentration variations (from normal air) greater than about 0.1 %VOL (~1,000 ppm).

- **Oxygen (O_2):** Normal air has an O_2 concentration of 20.95% by volume. Higher ambient O_2 concentrations up to ~21.8 %VOL have little to no effect on the sensor. Concentrations exceeding this can be reported as a flammable gas at %LEL levels. The cross sensitivity is approximately 1.07 %LEL per 1 %vol O_2 (e.g., oxygen at 30 %vol in air, a 9.1 %vol enrichment, would read approximately 9.7 %LEL and be identified as Class 2 - Hydrogen Mixture). The sensor is immune to poisoning by O_2.
    - Note: if O_2 concentrations decrease, the sensor response will depend on what gas is displacing the oxygen. Flammable gases displace oxygen. Methane at 100 %LEL (5 %VOL methane) will reduce oxygen's relative concentration by 1.05 %VOL in ambient air, meaning the O_2 concentration decreases from 20.9 to 19.85 %VOL. Such flammable-gas-caused O_2 depletions are already taken into account by the sensor calibration and therefore cause no unwanted effects on sensor output.
    - NevadaNano has conducted testing to demonstrate the effect of extreme oxygen depletion. A gas stream containing 2.5 %VOL methane in balance zero air was diluted using a stream containing pure nitrogen to achieve 15, 10, and 5 %VOL O_2 levels. Note that the concentration of methane decreases as pure nitrogen is introduced into the gas stream. Calculated concentrations and the %LEL reported by the MPS are shown below.

	Nitrogen [%VOL]	Oxygen [%VOL]	Methane [%VOL]	Calculated [%LEL]	MPS Error [%LEL]
50 %LEL Methane in Zero Air	77.1	20.4	2.5	50.0	+1.0
Diluting with N_2 to 15 %O_2	83.2	15.0	1.8	36.0	−6.0
Diluting with N_2 to 10 %O_2	88.8	10.0	1.2	24.0	−7.0
Diluting with N_2 to 5 %O_2	94.4	5.0	0.6	12.0	−12.0

- **Carbon Dioxide (CO_2):** CO_2 is present at concentrations near 400 ppm in normal air. This ambient level of CO_2 is already taken into account by sensor calibrations. The sensor is unaffected by elevated CO_2 concentrations up to ~5,000 ppm. Concentrations above this can be misinterpreted by the sensor as flammable gas and will compromise accuracy. It will be identified as a heavy gas, and the cross sensitivity is ~1.74 %LEL per 1,000 ppm CO_2 (e.g., CO_2 at 10,000 ppm would read ~17.4 %LEL). The sensor is immune to poisoning by CO_2.
    - Note: Exhaled human breath contains CO_2 at concentrations of approximately 4-5 %VOL (40,000-50,000 ppm). (During respiration, the CO_2 replaces oxygen, reducing its concentration from 20.95% by volume in normal air to 13.6-16% in exhaled air.) **As such, breathing directly onto the sensor can cause it to falsely report flammable gas for a brief period.**

CERTIFICATION

Certificates of Compliance	Specification	Test Lab/Certification Body	Certificate/Report Number
Certificate of Registration of Quality Management System	ISO 9001:2015	National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)	19.8213
RoHS (2 & 3) Compliant	2011/65/EU & 2015/863; includes China RoHS—SJ/T 11363 & 11364	Claigan Labs and Supplier Declarations	QA-DC-0024-XX NevadaNano Environmental Declaration for Mini
China RoHS Compliant	SJT/T 11363 & 11364	Claigan Labs and Supplier Declarations	QA-DC-0024-XX NevadaNano Environmental Declaration for Mini
REACH Compliant	EC 1907/2006 (33 & 67)	Claigan Labs and Supplier Declarations	QA-DC-0024-XX NevadaNano Environmental Declaration for Mini

ADDITIONAL TEST STANDARDS

Test	Specification	Summary of Test Conditions
Low Temperature Operating*	IEC 60068-2-1:2007	500 Hours @ −50 °C
High Temperature Operating*	IEC 60068-2-2:2007	1000 Hours @ 85 °C
Mean Time to Failure (MTTF)*	IEC 60068-2-2:2007	116 years at 60 % confidence level or 35 years at 99 % confidence level
Vibration	IEC 60068-2-6:2007	31Hz – 150 Hz (2 G acceleration), 1 hour per axis, 3 axes
Shock	IEC 60068-2-27:2008	50 G peak/11 ms half sine pulse, 3 axes (positive and negative pulses)
Drop	IEC 60068-2-31:2008	1 meter drop onto concrete
Damp heat - steady state*	IEC 60068-2-78:2012	500 hours @ 40 °C/93 %RH
Temperature cycling	JESD22-A104E	From −40 °C to 85 °C for 200 cycles
Sand/Dust*	MIL-STD-810G Method 510.5	Sand: 150-850 μm SiO_2 particle size, 23 m/s nom. velocity, 1.5 hrs @ 70 °C per axis, 3 axes. Dust: Red China Clay, 1.5 m/s nom. velocity, 6 hrs @ 20 °C, 6 hrs @ 70 °C
Poisoning*	NevadaNano	1,200 ppm-hours H_2S (50 ppm for 24 hours) 10,400 ppm-hours siloxanes (decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, 100 ppm for 4 hours, then 1,000 ppm for 10 hours) 0.25 ppm-hours NO_2 (3 ppm for 5 minutes) 0.83 ppm-hours HCN (10 ppm for 5 minutes) 0.75 ppm-hours SO_2 (9 ppm for 5 minutes) 0.17 ppm-hours Cl_2 (2 ppm for 5 minutes) 4.17 ppm-hours NH_3 (50 ppm for 5 minutes)
Electrostatic Discharge*	JEDEC JS001-2017	Human Body Model, passed at 2 kV
EMC: Radiated Emissions	EN 55011	30 MHz to 1 GHz
EMC: RF Electromagnetic Field Immunity	IEC/EN 61000-4-3	80 MHz to 6 GHz at 10 V/m
EMC: Magnetic Immunity	IEC/EN 61000-4-8	30 A/m, 3 axes, 50 Hz and 60 Hz

The table above provides a summary of standardized tests and test conditions to which the MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor has been subjected. The sensor has passed all of these tests by demonstrating performance within the MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor specification both before and after each test.

*An asterisk indicates that the specified test was not performed on the MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor but is qualified by similarity to the MPS Flammable Gas Sensor.

PART NUMBER ORDERING GUIDE-CONT.

Please refer to the following table below when ordering the MPS Mini Flammable Gas Sensor or MPS Mini Evaluation Kit.



SKU	Description
MPSF00-MN0505-00	MPS Flammables Sensor, Mini, 5-Pin,UART+Analog Out
MPSF00-MN0509-00	MPS Flammables Sensor, Mini, 5-Pin,UART+Analog Out+Auto Start (ISO)
MPSF00-MN05E9-00	MPS Flammables Sensor, Mini, 5-Pin,UART+Analog Out+Auto Start (IEC)



SKU	Description
MPS999-MN0000-99	MPS Mini Evaluation Kit (Mini sensor not included)

NevadaNano

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Specifications are subject to change without notice.

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