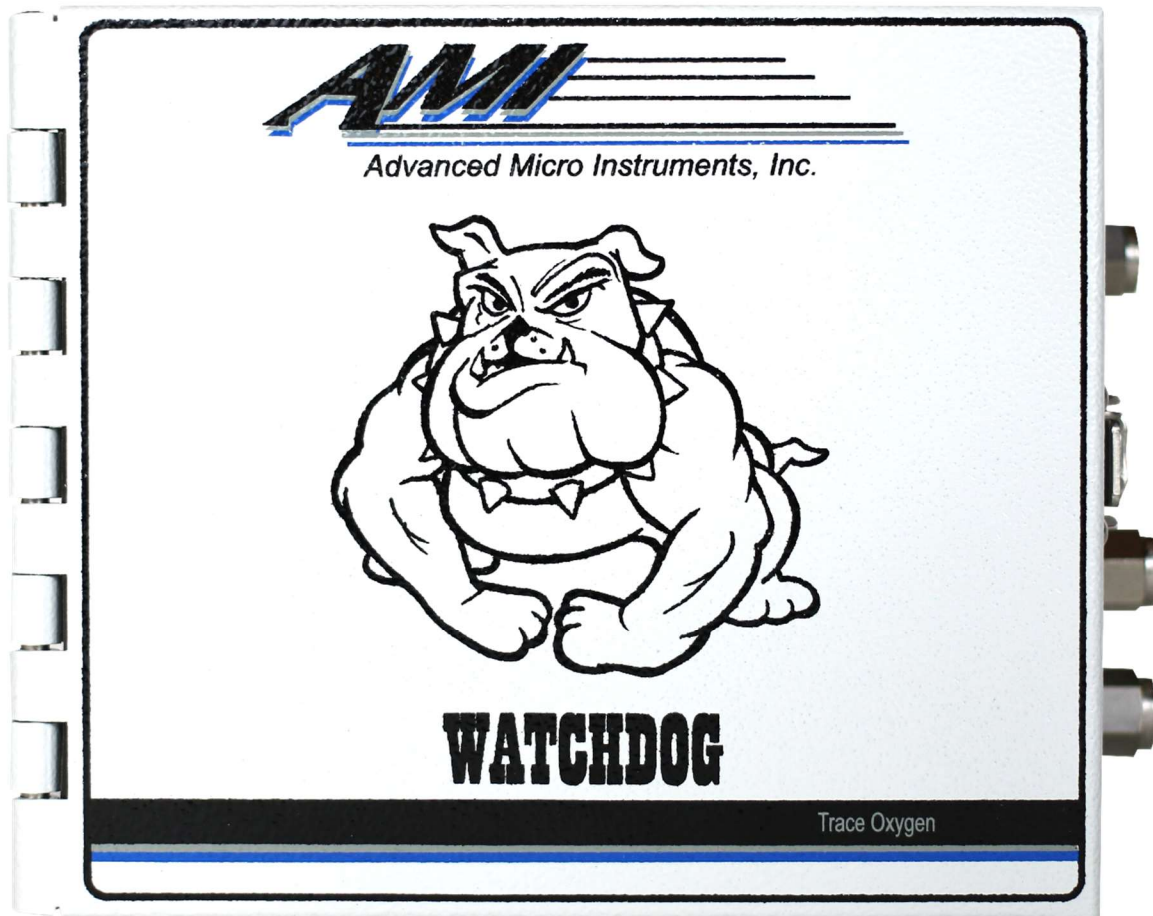




# WATCHDOG (%) Operator Manual



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# Preface

## Thank you!

We would like to thank you for purchasing the most advanced percent oxygen analyzer available. We have gone to great lengths to make this analyzer as simple as possible. It includes our proprietary cell block and sensor. With the optional Analyzer Guardian and Demister accessories, it provides a simple, low-cost system for monitoring natural gas wells.

Please verify that the analyzer was not damaged in transit. If it is, please contact the shipper as well as AMI.

## Caution

**Read and understand this manual fully before attempting to use the instrument. In particular, understand the hazards associated with using flammable or poisonous gases, and associated with the contents of the sensor used.**

## Address

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Last Revised: 2026.01  
OM-300-031 Rev D

# Watchdog Percent Oxygen Analyzer

## Introduction

The Watchdog provides the essential elements of a complete oxygen analyzer but omits features that are duplicated by the flow computers with which it is intended to be used. It provides a complete sample control system, a means of calibration, and a user-configurable analog and digital output.

The “percent” version of the Watchdog is identical to the trace version except that its LCD does not blink when reading percent values of oxygen.

This manual covers software version 5.21, issued August 2013.

## Features

- ❖ 4 user selectable output ranges to choose from. (See Note 1)
- High resolution 3-digit LCD.
- RFI protected.
- 1-5VDC and 4-20mA isolated analog output signals.
- ❖ USB virtual comport and Modbus Bidirectional RS485 communication for advanced features (See Note 1)
- ❖ Datalog – 10 days oxygen reading recording at 1 minute per sample (See Note 1)
- ❖ Calibration history – stores the last five calibrations with time, date, span factor and calibration gas. (See Note 1)
- ❖ Brown-out history – stores the last five brown-outs and recoveries. (See Note 1)
- ❖ Power up history – stores the last ten times the unit was powered up. (See Note 1)
- ❖ Advanced analog output calibration. (See Note 1)
- Power requirements: 10-28VDC.
- Low minimum detection limit.
- Excellent repeatability.
- Fast upscale/downscale response times.
- Proprietary Cellblock Technology: Integrates all components such as flow control valve, flow meter, 3-way calibration valve, Sample/Span/Off and compression fittings to be an integral part of the cellblock, eliminating tubing and fittings. The cell block also provides a compact size, fast response time and front panel sensor access without the need for tools.
- Area Classification: Designed to meet requirements for Class 1, Div. 2, Groups C, D application.
- Unaffected by changes in flow rate from 0.1 to 2.0 SCFH
- Wall mount or 2.0” pipe with standard pipe clamp.
- Compact size.
- 2-year warranty for analyzer, parts and labor.
- 6-month sensor warranty, life expectancy 1-2 years.
- ❖ **Note 1: Requires optional AMI User Interface Software**

## Oxygen sensor

AMI manufactures its own electrochemical sensor. It measures the concentration of oxygen in a gas stream, using an oxygen specific chemistry. It generates an output current in proportion to the amount of oxygen present, and has zero output in the absence of oxygen, thus avoiding any requirement to zero the analyzer. The cell is linear throughout its range. The span calibration may be performed using standard span gases or ambient air. Unlike competitive sensors, the AMI sensor is made using a high-capacity metallic body that provides long life with about twice the active ingredients of conventional sensors.

Several variations of sensors are available for different applications.

# Installation and Operation

## Receiving the analyzer

When you receive the instrument, check the package for evidence of damage and if any is found, contact the shipper.

Do not install the sensor until the analyzer is completely installed, the gas lines are plumbed, and the electrical connections are all made; and sample or zero gas is ready to flow into it.

## Installation

*This section contains important information to do with safety and installation. Please don't skip it!*

### ----- Points to consider first! -----

**Environment** – what is the temperature range going to be where the analyzer will be installed? If the temperature is going to go below freezing, you need to place it in a temperature-controlled meter building. If this is not possible, you should really be using a heated 2010BX. Also, make sure it won't get too hot in the summer – you may need to ventilate or even air condition a building. Use a solar panel as a sunshield if one is to be used. The standard temperature specification is 25°F to 115°F.

**Sample conditions** – if your sample is hot and wet, you will need to keep water from condensing in the sample line or analyzer. The AMI Demister brings hot and wet gases back to ambient temperature and allows the condensation and entrained liquids to fall back into the pipeline (no draining is necessary, unlike a coalescing filter which requires routine maintenance). The AMI Analyzer Guardian stops occasional slugs of water from contaminating the analyzer, and acts as a check valve, so that if a compressor goes down drawing a vacuum on the line, air is not drawn back into the analyzer through its vent. It is available with a built-in pressure regulator for high pressure lines (up to 1200 psig).

**Power supply** – if you are going to run the unit off solar power, using a battery, you need to size both the battery and the solar panel correctly. The analyzer draws about 30mA at 14.4 volts, but if you select the 4- 20mA output option this will go up to about 60mA.

## Location

The unit is designed to be mounted on a wall or on a 2" pipe in a general purpose, Class 1 division 2 Group C, D area. It must not be mounted outdoors unless precautions are taken to avoid exposing it to temperature extremes or water ingress. **It MUST NOT be enclosed in another sealed enclosure such as a NEMA 4 box**, as this will violate its safety design. A vented box or enclosure is acceptable. Although the unit is RFI protected, do not to mount it close to sources of electrical interference such as large transformers, motor start contactors, relays etc. Also avoid subjecting it to significant vibration – don't mount it on the side of a compressor!

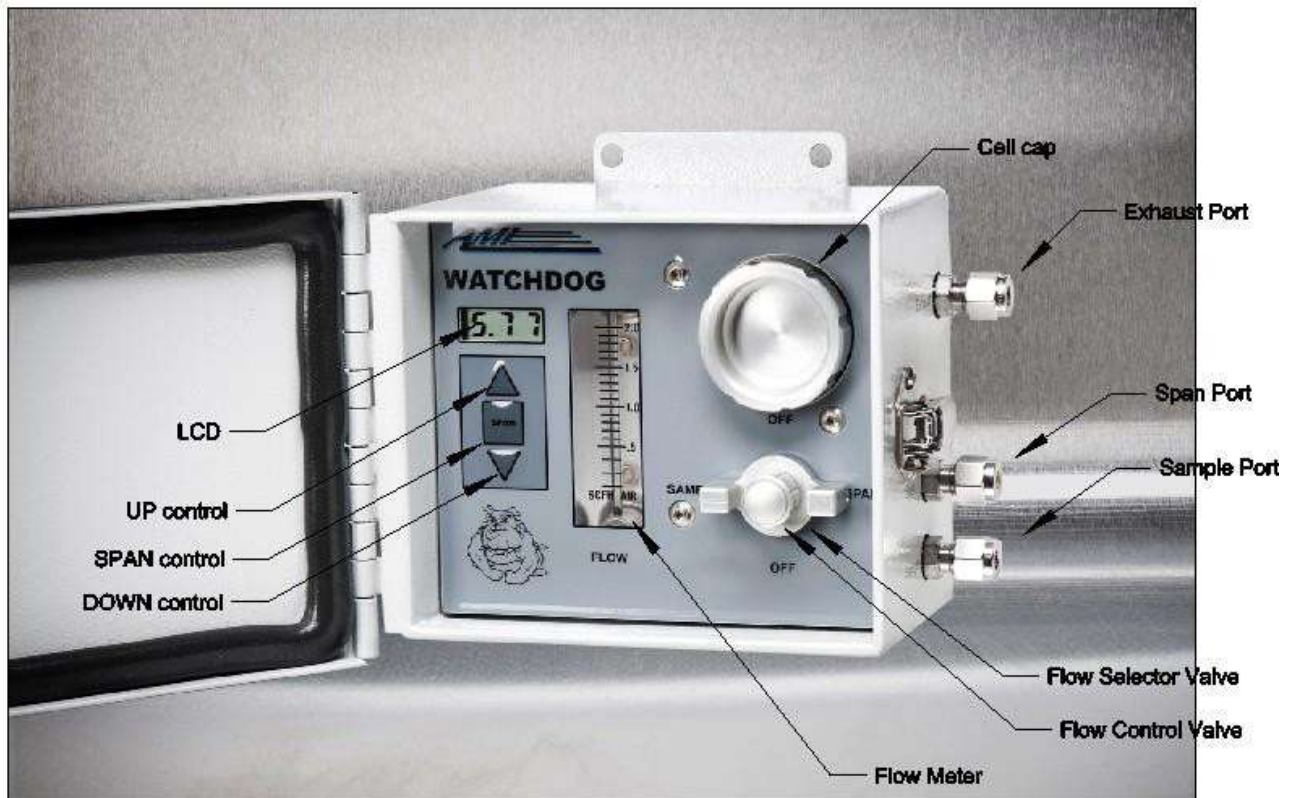
Give yourself enough clearance on the right side so that you will not have a hard time connecting the gas lines.

## **Safety considerations**

The unit is designed for installation in either a general purpose or a Class 1 Division 2 Group B, C, D area, but it is also designed so that a hazardous gas may be introduced into its main compartment. This gas may be any group B, C or D gas such as natural gas.

The enclosure is vented so that it can be considered as a Class 1 Division 2 area. It **MUST NOT** be mounted in a Class 1 Division 1 area, or inside another sealed box.

# Short-form Installation Procedure



**Figure 1. The Watchdog**

1. Mount analyzer at a convenient eye level, not too close to the right wall.
2. Connect the analyzer ground to an 8 ft. ground rod or similar high-quality ground with a minimum 16AWG wire.
3. Confirm sample pressure is less than the analyzer specification (150 psig).
4. Deal with any potential condensation or liquid contamination issues.
5. Connect the sample line to the sample inlet port with ¼" tubing.
6. Turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to the Off position.
7. Pressurize the sample line to line pressure (between 1 psig and 150 psig).
8. Leak check every fitting and weld from the analyzer inlet to the sample tap.
9. Connect vent line to outside, running slightly downhill all the way.
10. Turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to the Sample position.
11. Adjust the sample flow to approximately 1 SCFH.

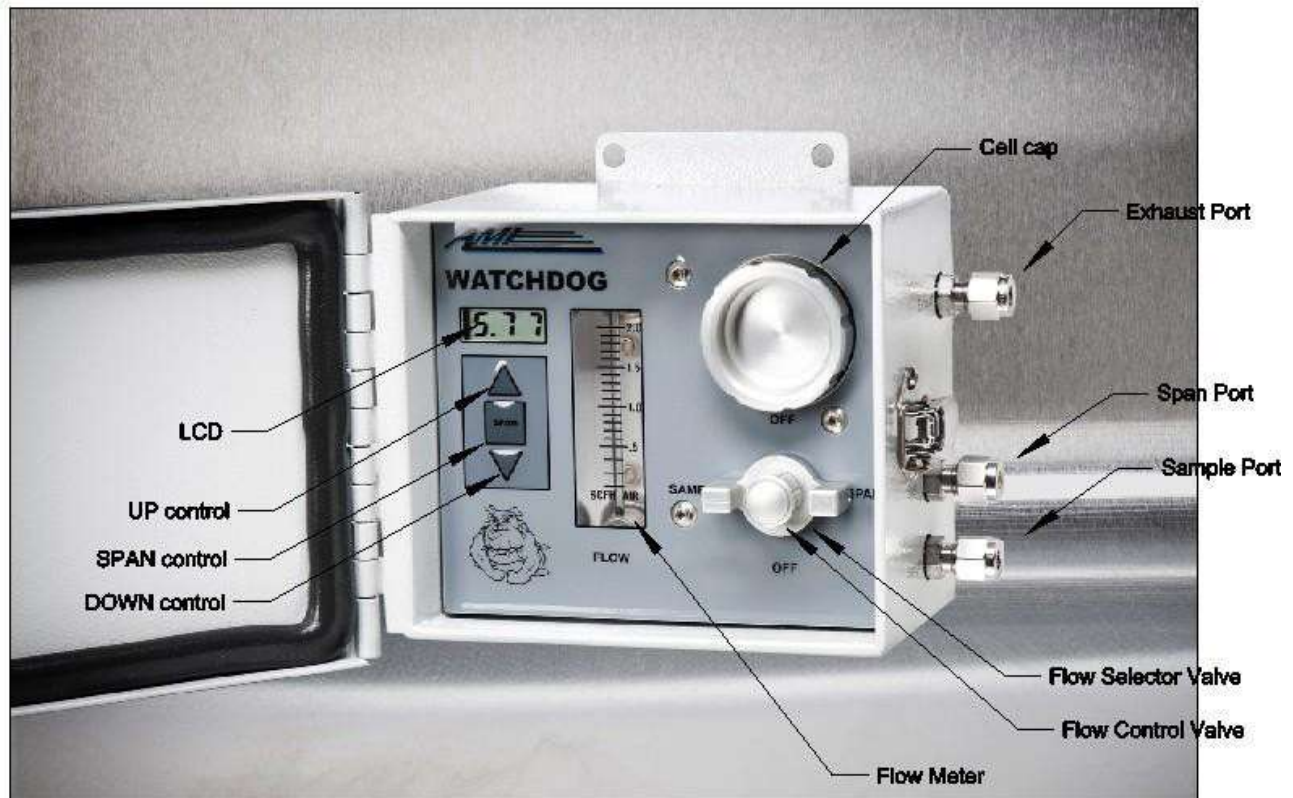
12. Connect power, analog output and RS485 if desired. Run the power in one conduit, and the analog output and RS485 in the other.
13. Power up analyzer.
14. Set up as desired with a laptop.
15. Turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to OFF.
16. Unscrew the cell cap and install the oxygen sensor.
17. Remove the shorting tab on the sensor.
18. Optional: in the User Interface (version III) press the “NEW SENSOR” button and record the sensor serial number.
19. Stabilize for 60 seconds, adjust span to 20.9%.
20. Turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to SAMPLE and flow sample gas at about 1 SCFH.
21. Replace the Cell cap and tighten it down (hand tight).
22. Remove the USB connection cable.
23. Replace the access panel on the side of the analyzer.
24. Purge with sample gas for half an hour, or until the oxygen reading has stabilized.
25. If desired, span with known calibration gas.

## **Laptop set up procedure**

1. Make sure the laptop has the FTDI driver installed.
  - a. Windows 7 will probably find the driver by itself, but XP probably won't.
  - b. Run the program called CDM20824\_Setup.exe which is either on the AMI CD or can be downloaded from the FTDIchips.com site.
2. Install the AMI program if you haven't done so already.
3. Run the program.
4. On the User Interface screen, at the top, click the “Port” button. Note the ports listed.
5. Make sure the analyzer is powered up and connect the USB cable to it.
  - a. If you connect the cable without power to the analyzer, the port won't appear.
6. On the User Interface screen, at the top, click the “Port” button again, and you should see an additional port. Select this port.
7. Let the program figure out how to talk to the analyzer, and watch it load up all the boxes with numbers or words.

8. If you want to name the analyzer, click on the “User ID:” box. A dialog box will come up, asking for a password. Use “AMI” as the password and then write in up to 12 characters as a name for the analyzer.
9. Set up the output range, which is the range used by the analog output to scale the output for your monitoring device. People often use 100ppm in the natural gas world.
10. Make sure the security settings are the way you want them.
11. Make sure the display shows the correct output type, 1-5 V or 4-20 mA.
12. Go through the analog output calibration procedure if desired.
13. If you are installing the sensor, click on the New Sensor button and write in the serial number.
14. Check the analyzer date and time is correct (we set it up for Pacific Standard time, which may not be correct for you). You can send the computer time to the analyzer by clicking the Set Analyzer Time button.
15. Clear the stored data by clicking the “Clear Data” button in the DATALOG section on the right.

## Expanded Installation Procedure



**Figure 2. The Watchdog**

This section follows the format of the installation procedure above but with greatly expanded explanations and coverage of detailed issues.

**1. Mount analyzer in a shelter, if possible, at a convenient eye level, not too close to the right wall.**

The gas connections are made on the right side of the analyzer, while the electrical connections are on the left side. Leave enough space on the right side of the analyzer for the gas connections.

The analyzer can be mounted on a wall, or on a two-inch pipe.

If the analyzer is mounted outside, make sure it has some kind of sunshade. If it is DC powered with a solar panel, use the panel to give the analyzer shade.

If the analyzer is mounted in a building with other equipment, make sure it won't get too hot during the summer. The sensor will rapidly die in temperatures higher than 115°F. You may need to install ventilation or even air conditioning.

Remove the access panel on the left side of the analyzer so you can make the electrical connections.

**2. Connect the analyzer ground to an 8 ft. ground rod (or similar high-quality ground) using at least 16AWG wire.**

It is **essential** for safety that the analyzer has a good ground. Normally an 8ft rod pounded into the ground will suffice, but in very dry or sandy areas something better may have to be done. Sometimes gas running in pipelines can develop serious static charges on the lines, causing the pipeline to be at a high voltage compared with the local ground. Be aware of this and make sure the pipeline is well grounded itself.

**3. Confirm sample pressure is less than the analyzer specification (150 psig). If it is higher, use a suitable regulator such as the high-pressure AMI Analyzer Guardian with regulator. Such a regulator must have a stainless-steel diaphragm.**

The analyzer needs a minimum of about 1 PSIG, and a maximum of 150 psig sample pressure. If the pressure is too low, the gas flow will be low and the response time long, and if the flow is very low the effect of minor leaks will become significant. If the pressure is too high the analyzer will be damaged, and you may get a hazardous situation if the sample is flammable.

The response time will depend on the length of tubing, the diameter and the flow rate of gas through it. You can roughly calculate it by assuming that the volume of tubing – the length multiplied by its internal area – has to be completely replaced by the gas flowing before you get a representative reading. If the sample pressure is high, the volume is effectively increased because more gas is packed into the tubing.

AMI can provide a version of the Analyzer Guardian with a built-in regulator that can handle pressures up to 1500 psig.

**4. Deal with any potential condensation or liquid contamination issues.**

If the sample may contain condensable liquids, they must be prevented from entering the analyzer. Natural gas, for example, often contains water in vapor or liquid form, and other liquids such as oils, glycols or methanol. Such liquids tend to collect in dips in the sample line, and come through the line as slugs, particularly if the line is cleaned by “pigging” it (sending a cleaning device through it, preceded by a tidal wave of sludge). Compressors heat the gas and also cause liquids to condense, particularly when the gas cools off, so that even apparently dry gas going into a compressor may contain liquids coming out. AMI can provide its Demister and Analyzer Guardian that together work to prevent problems from hot wet gases. The Demister acts to coalesce droplets and cool the gas, while the Analyzer Guardian stops any liquids from getting to the analyzer. Any liquids fall back into the pipeline, thus minimizing maintenance issues. Also, the Analyzer Guardian acts to prevent the problems that arise when the source of the gas is shut off while the downstream compressor continues to run, thus pulling a vacuum on the line. Normally this would cause air to be drawn into the line through the analyzer vent, but the Analyzer Guardian contains a very sensitive check valve that prevents this.

**5. Connect the sample line with ¼” tubing.**

Preferably use stainless tubing only to connect the sample to the analyzer. Other materials are often not robust enough. However, for a percent level analyzer high quality plastic tubing such as Tygon® is acceptable. Normally ¼” tubing is adequate unless the sample run is very long and the source pressure low – in this case you may have to use wider tubing.

You should have some kind of blocking valve on the sample port. If you use a Demister, use at least a half inch ball valve at its base.

**6. Turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to the Off position.**

The Sample/Span/Off valve is to the lower right of the grey faceplate above. This valve contains a Flow Control (metering valve) in its center. If you turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to the off position, it will stop either sample or span gas from flowing into the analyzer – but the exhaust is still connected to the atmosphere so when you have a sensor in the analyzer it is not sealed off by this valve. At this point in this procedure, you shouldn't have the sensor in place yet. Don't use the metering valve to shut off the flow (as it is a fine adjustment valve)!

**7. Pressurize the sample line to line pressure (1 – 150 psig).**

The exact pressure doesn't matter – we want enough so that you can easily see leaks in the following step.

**8. Leak check every fitting and weld from the analyzer inlet to the sample tap.**

Use a liquid soap solution such as “Snoop®” or similar. Don't spray it on! You are looking for little bubbles that appear after a while, indicating a leak. Even the tiniest leak will allow oxygen to enter the gas stream, no matter what the pressure inside the line is. Check absolutely every possible source including welds, valve packing, and fittings both around the tube and the nut, and anything else that might leak.

**9. Connect the vent line to outside, running slightly downhill all the way.**

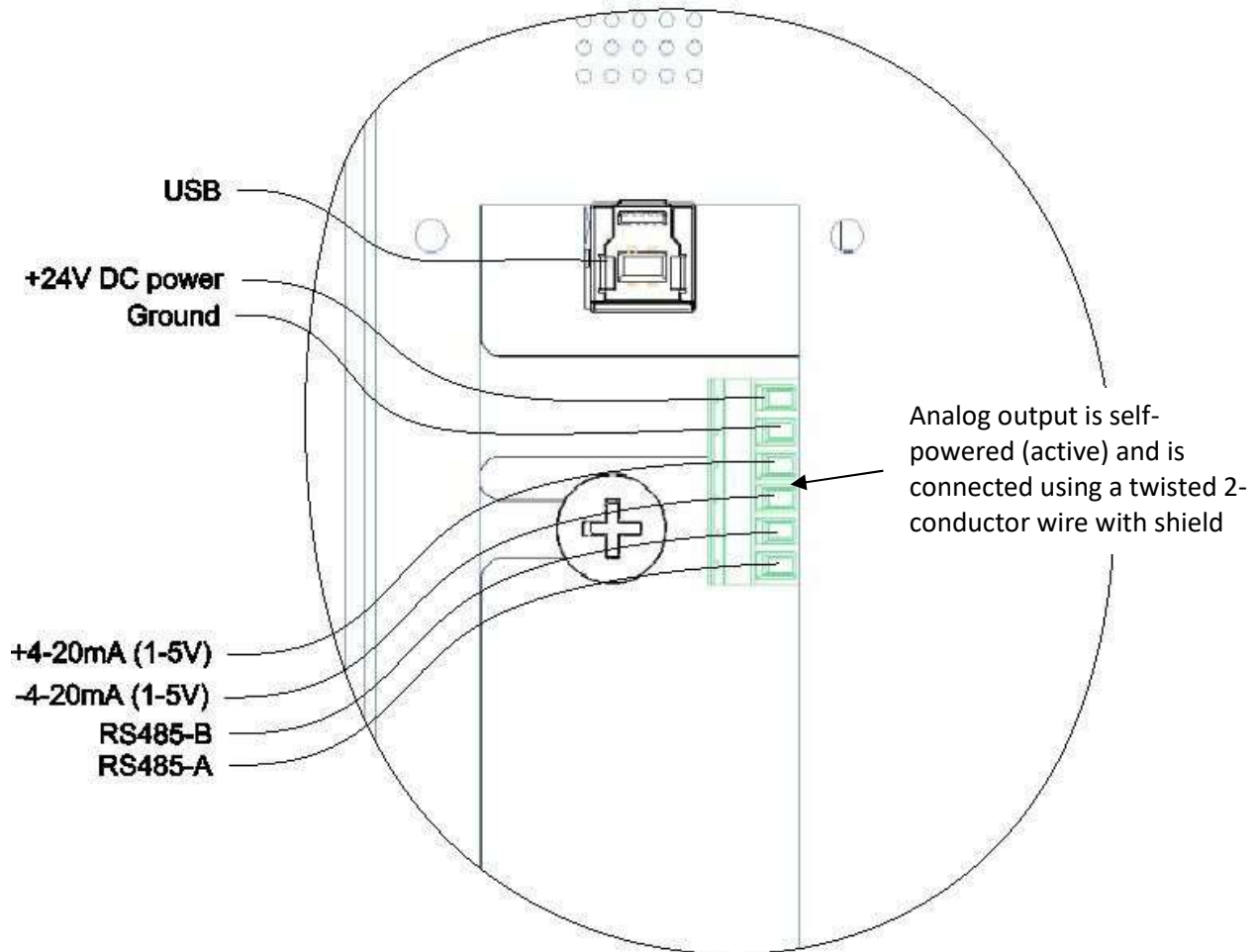
Particularly if the analyzer and gas are warmer than the environment, any water vapor in the gas will tend to condense in the vent line. If the line runs uphill, or has a low point, water will collect and potentially freeze, stopping the flow. If the sample gas is flammable, the vent must go to a safe area.

Also take precautions that insects don't make nests in the exhaust line. You may need some sort of a grill over it.

**10. Adjust the sample flow to approximately 1 SCFH with the Flow control valve located in the middle of the Sample/Span/Off valve.**

The Flow Control Valve is the metering valve in the middle of the Sample/Span/Off valve. It is a sensitive needle valve – so don't try to use it to shut off the flow. Turn the main valve to the OFF position for this.

The exact flow rate is not important – 1 SCFH is halfway up the flow meter, so is easy to see. You want the flow between about 0.5 SCFH and 2 SCFH at the maximum. Lower flows will result in longer response times, and possibly higher oxygen readings as minor leaks aren't diluted as much by the flow. Higher flow rates will tend to increase the pressure on the sensor which will increase the oxygen reading.



**Figure 3. Electrical connections**

**11. Connect power, analog output and RS485 if desired. Run the power in one conduit, and the analog output and RS485 in another. You can use flexible conduit for Class 1 Div. 2 areas. See the NEC.**

All the electrical connections are located on a single Phoenix pluggable connector behind a panel on the left side of the analyzer. Make sure the wires are connected per the markings – Positive to +ve, return to the ground symbol. This terminal should also be used if required for any shield connections for the output or RS485 connections. The output connections are made on positions 3 and 4, and the RS485 connections on 5 and 6.

The analog output – which may be either 1-5 V or 4-20 mA – is connected to the “+” and “-” symbols (3 and 4). This signal is isolated from ground. If the device to which you are connecting is also isolated from ground, make sure you ground the “-” connection at the analyzer. The terminal marked by the ground symbol may be used for this purpose, in which case the output is no longer isolated. DO NOT GROUND BOTH ENDS! If you do so, you will generate a ground loop which will seriously upset the readings. Normally you would use the ground terminal for a shield. You can select which output is in use. The voltage output is lower power, but more prone to interference. If you decide to change it, you will probably have to perform an output calibration, described later in this manual.

The two terminals marked A and B are for the RS-485 ModBus connection. This is not isolated from ground. Run the power through one conduit, and the analog output and RS485 lines through the other. Make sure you are following the NEC (National Electrical Code) when you wire it up. Also make sure you have a way of removing power from the analyzer nearby, per the code.

#### **12. Power up analyzer.**

When you do so, the LCD should light up.

#### **13. Turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to OFF.**

#### **14. Unscrew the cell cap and install the oxygen sensor.**

Unscrew the cap first. Open the sensor bag, remove the sensor by holding the little handle and immediately put it into the cell compartment, gold side up, and with the little metal tag on the side facing you. When it is in place, hold the sensor in place and pull out the tag. Do it in this order so that the sensor is always operating, eating up oxygen that gets in through its membrane.

#### **15. Optional: in the User Interface (version III) press the “NEW SENSOR” button and record the sensor serial number.**

You might just want to write it down. Note that you can read the serial number while the sensor is in place in its cell block pocket – don’t leave the sensor out while you write it down.

#### **16. Stabilize for 45 seconds, then adjust span to 20.9%.**

It will take the sensor about 20 seconds to come to a reasonably stable reading but give it 45 seconds to be sure. If the analyzer is at a different temperature from the sensor the reading will slowly change as the two come to equilibrium. If so, let it run for a while until it seems to be stable. Replace cell cap after stability has been achieved.

#### **17. Turn the Sample/Span/Off valve to SAMPLE.**

#### **18. If desired, span with known calibration gas.**

##### **a) Connect a regulator (with Stainless Steel diaphragm ONLY) to span gas tank.**

A regulator with any other kind of diaphragm will allow oxygen to diffuse into the gas, contaminating it.

**b) Shut off the regulator outlet valve and leak check all fittings, gauges and packing glands with Snoop or equivalent.**

Again, flow the liquid on, don't spray it on. Make sure you check the regulator and tank valve as well.

**c) Flow calibration gas preferably through a length of AMI supplied tubing.**

It is preferable to use the AMI special flexible non-diffusive tubing with its O-ring sealed fittings so that you don't destroy the span inlet fitting on the analyzer. This can be purchased from AMI as an option. Compression fittings can only take a few openings and closings before they cease to seal well enough for a trace oxygen analyzer.

**d) Turn the analyzer Sample/Span/Off valve to the SPAN position.**

You will probably see the reading shoot up for a moment as the air in the span gas port is pushed past the sensor, then the reading will start to stabilize.

**e) Allow to stabilize for 2-5 minutes.**

This will allow any residual air to be flushed out and the sensor to come to equilibrium.

**f) Verify that the analyzer reads within about 15% of the span gas value.**

If it doesn't, something is wrong. If the sensor reads very low, check it on air, and if that reading is also very low, replace the sensor (you shouldn't have to do this with a new sensor!) If the reading is too high, it is possible that your span gas is contaminated, or you have a leak, or you have made some kind of error. One thing to note is that if the analyzer temperature is very different from the sensor temperature when you put it in, the reading will be quite wrong until the sensor has had a chance to equilibrate. Increase the flow rate by doubling it and see if the reading decreases after a few seconds. If the reading goes down with higher flow, you certainly do have a leak. You can also time how long it takes, which will give you an indication of where the leak is. The longer it takes for the flow change to affect the leak, the further from the analyzer is the leak source. Fix it by using Snoop and try again.

**g) If so, adjust the analyzer span until it reads the span gas value.**

Press the SPAN button. The SPAN flag should appear on the LCD. Press the UP or DOWN arrow buttons until the reading is correct. After a few seconds the SPAN flag will go out and the analyzer will accept the new calibration.

Note: When holding the arrow button down, it may take up to 15 seconds for the display to reflect a value change.

**h) Let it go back to normal operation then press the UP arrow and note the number displayed (the "Calibration factor").**

You can use this to get an idea of the remaining cell life in the future. The analyzer also stores the calibration values in memory so you can view the history later. When the sensor is new it will have a Calibration factor (also called Span factor) of about 450. As it gets used up, this number will have to increase when you span the analyzer until it gets up to around 950 or so (the Calibration factor doesn't increase by itself, it only does so when you span the analyzer). You will probably see the span factor

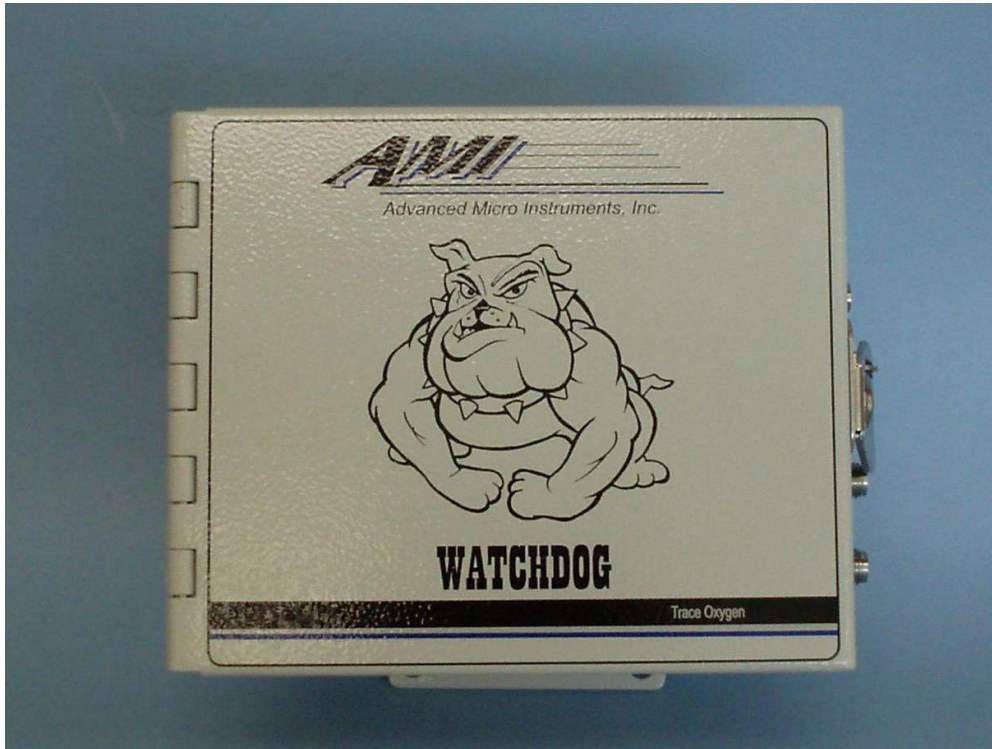
remain fairly constant, then suddenly change. When it does so it means that you will need a new sensor soon. The sensor behaves rather like a NiCd battery – it is stable until suddenly it starts to fail.

**i) Rotate the valve back to the Sample position.**

The analyzer is now set up and calibrated. It is normally good practice to give it a day or two and recheck the calibration.

# Analyzer Description

## Basic description

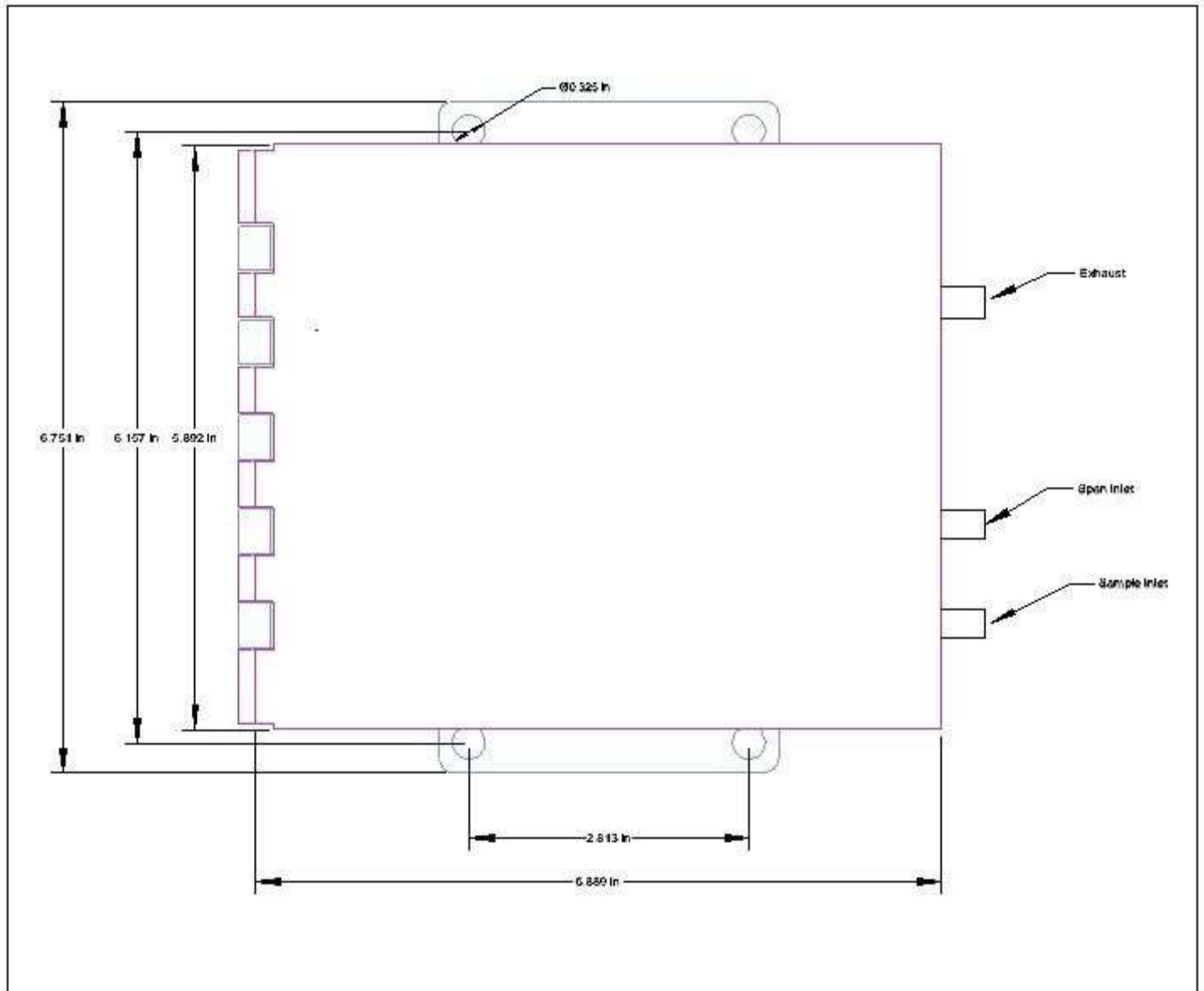


**Figure 4. Analyzer (closed)**

The Watchdog measures oxygen in a flammable (or inert) gas stream down to under 0.1%. It is intended for use in non-hazardous or Class 1 Division 2 areas when properly installed.

All components are contained in one compact enclosure. The sample system components are all integrated into a "Cell Block" located behind the front panel on the right, and the electronics are contained on a single circuit board also located behind the front panel, on the left. All the electrical connections are available under a panel on the left side of the instrument.

The actual oxygen measurement is performed by an oxygen sensor located behind the cell cap on the right.



**Figure 5. Outline Drawing**

# General information

## Basic knowledge about oxygen measurement

Oxygen is a chemically active gas that is present in the atmosphere at 20.9% concentration. It is essential for animals including humans as it is the active part of air used in breathing. However, since it is so active, small amounts of it can cause havoc in situations which are not supposed to have it. In natural gas, for example, small amounts of oxygen cause the other chemicals present in the gas to combine to form acids that destroy piping and chemical systems; in semiconductor manufacturing it changes expensive integrated circuits into sand or at least stops them from working properly. In chemical operations it can prevent polymerization or otherwise degrade the performance of the process.

Gases obey the gas laws formulated at the end of the 18th century and still not well understood by many people. A gas consists of a very large number of independent molecules that fly around in otherwise empty space. Gases don't interact with each other (normally), so that you can treat the behavior of each gas as if no other gases were present. Thus, you can consider that air consists of nitrogen at about 11 psia, and oxygen at about 3 psia, and various other gases at lower pressures. "psia" stands for Pounds per Square Inch Absolute, i.e. it is the pressure above zero, not the pressure above atmospheric pressure as it would be if we were to use the units psig (Pounds per Square Inch Gauge). Since we are only worried about oxygen, mostly because nitrogen does not matter normally to the chemistry we are worried about, we can think of air as being pure oxygen at 3 psia pressure. In a pure gas stream, or in natural gas, there is zero oxygen ideally, i.e. it is at zero pressure. This means that if there is a leak in the piping, there exists a pressure difference of 3 psia forcing oxygen into the leak. The oxygen doesn't care about or see the other gas in the pipe, it thinks of the pipe as being a vacuum. People normally don't intuitively understand this, they think of the gas as being rather like a pipe full of oil in the sea, where if there's a leak oil will come out but it will keep any water out of the pipe. However, that's not the way it is with gases because the space between the molecules is very much larger for a gas than it is for a liquid, so one gas does not push another out of the way.

The bottom line is that oxygen from the air will force its way into a pure gas system regardless of the pressure in the system. It will do this through little holes, or through permeable materials such as all plastics or rubbers, to greater or lesser extent. Nitrogen will do this as well, but since nitrogen is comparatively inert normally its presence doesn't matter. Also, it is much harder to measure, while oxygen is comparatively easy, hence oxygen is normally used to verify the integrity of the system.

As a consequence of this, the integrity of the oxygen analyzer sample system is critical. AMI analyzers are designed around a proprietary "Cell Block" that integrates all of the sample handling elements into one solid chunk of metal, resulting in much fewer leak sources and therefore much greater reliability, as well as lower cost.

It is just as important that the analyzer's sample system – the components used to control the gas flow – are perfect as the measurement methodology itself. No matter how good the analyzer is, if you don't connect the plumbing correctly you won't get good results.

## Sample tubing and components

Oxygen diffuses through plastics, to a greater or lesser extent. Standard blue poly tubing will diffuse about 1ppm per foot into 1SCFH at 70°F. At percent levels this is not very important, however silicone tubing is very much worse. Use high quality compression fittings such as “Swagelock®” or “Gyrolock®” and high-quality stainless-steel filters, valves or regulators if necessary. Make sure that they are assembled correctly and perform a thorough leak test on the sample system before use.

The analyzer expects to see sample pressures between about 1 psig and 150 psig. Higher pressures will overwhelm the input valve and make it hard to control the flow. If your pressure is higher than this, use a regulator with a stainless steel diaphragm to bring the pressure down appropriately. The analyzer is not very much affected by changes in flow rate and the internal flow meter is adequate for setting the flow. Don't use a high precision external flowmeter in front of the analyzer because oxygen will diffuse in through its O rings.

The span gas pressure should also be held below 100 psig, and normally would be controlled to 10 psig. AMI recommends that you use a length of their flexible tubing with O ring seals on its fittings so that you don't damage the analyzer fittings by making and breaking them too often.

## Exhaust

The exhaust port of the analyzer should be given at least a foot of tubing, but it should not be allowed to become pressurized, or the readings will be affected. It should be vented outdoors or brought into a scavenging system. If the latter, have the scavenging system suck in room air around the exhaust line so that the pressure at the exhaust is atmospheric. A typical way of doing this is to have the scavenging system suck on a 1" pipe, and have the ¼" exhaust line from the analyzer extend six inches or so into the end of the pipe. If it is likely that a loss of flow could happen, use a “Back Diffusion Assembly” to prevent air from getting back into the analyzer if this should happen.

## Calibrating the analyzer

The oxygen sensor gradually gets used up over its life, and as it does so its sensitivity slowly drops until it is at the end of its life, when the sensitivity drops much faster. Therefore, you have to calibrate the sensor every so often to make sure that your readings are correct.

There are two ways of doing this. You can use a span gas, a mixed gas containing a certain level of oxygen in a background gas that ideally matches your sample, but is normally nitrogen, or you can use air. The advantage of using air is that its value really is 20.9% and it doesn't change; however, you may be forced by policy reasons to use a NIST-traceable span gas.

The advantage of using a span gas is that you can calibrate it to a value close to the range of interest. The disadvantage is that span gases sometimes are incorrectly made. Often this is true of so called “Manufactured air” which is made by mixing nitrogen and oxygen and may well not contain 20.9% of oxygen. Real compressed air is much more reliable.

### ***Calibrating with a span gas***

First put a suitable regulator on the span gas tank. Connect the regulator to the analyzer with a flexible line such as that provided by AMI, and leak check the connection with “Snoop” or similar leak detection fluid.

When all is assembled, turn the flow selector valve on the front of the analyzer to the SPAN position. Span gas is now flowing into the analyzer, and you should see the reading move to the span gas value. Assuming it stabilizes somewhere reasonably close, press the SPAN button and then the UP or DOWN button until the reading on the LCD shows what the span gas bottle says the value should be. Let go of the buttons, and after a second or two the analyzer will store its calibration value. Return the flow selector valve to the SAMPLE position.

Note: When holding the arrow button down, it may take up to 15 seconds for the display to reflect the value change.

### ***Calibrating with air***

You can either connect a compressed air line – from the plant air, not a bottle of compressed air – to the span port or you can leave the span port open. If you use compressed air, go through the same procedure as above, only adjust the oxygen reading to 20.9%. Bottles of compressed air are frequently actually a nitrogen/oxygen mixture and may not contain exactly 20.9% oxygen.

If you do not have compressed air, turn the flow selector valve to OFF, and unscrew the cell cap on the front of the analyzer. Blow some air under the sensor by waving a hat or some such at it. Adjust the reading as before to 20.9% and then turn the flow selector valve back to SAMPLE. Then screw the cell cap back on the analyzer.

### ***Span problems***

Sometimes you will run into problems. If the sensor is old, it may not be able to come up to the span gas level. If so, you need a new sensor. Sometimes sensor will calibrate on span gas but will fail on air. This also indicates an old sensor. You can see the sensor state by pressing the UP button when the sensor is showing the oxygen level – it displays the “Span factor”, a number between about 450 and 1000. As the sensor gets old each calibration will increase this number and when it gets up to about 850 it is time to replace the sensor.

Sometimes the sensor won't calibrate on span gas properly, but since it is a new sensor you figure something must be wrong. If something like this is happening, perform an air calibration and allow the sensor to come back down to a low reading on the sample. Then perform a span gas calibration only don't adjust the span factor with the UP or DOWN buttons and see what the analyzer says the gas contains. If the gas value isn't what you think it should be, it is the gas that is wrong, not the analyzer, because that air calibration is in fact very valid. You will have to trouble shoot whatever has happened with your gas.

## Gas connections

Connect the sample gas line to the sample inlet fitting on the right side of the analyzer; the span gas (if any) to the span gas inlet, and the exhaust line to a suitable vent. All fittings are ¼" compression fittings.

### **Sample gas:**

The sample gas pressure must be below 150 psig. The connection is a ¼" compression fitting. We recommend that you use an Analyzer Guardian together with a Demister on the sample line if there is any possibility of water or entrained liquids in the sample. **Don't allow liquids to enter the analyzer!**

### **Span gas:**

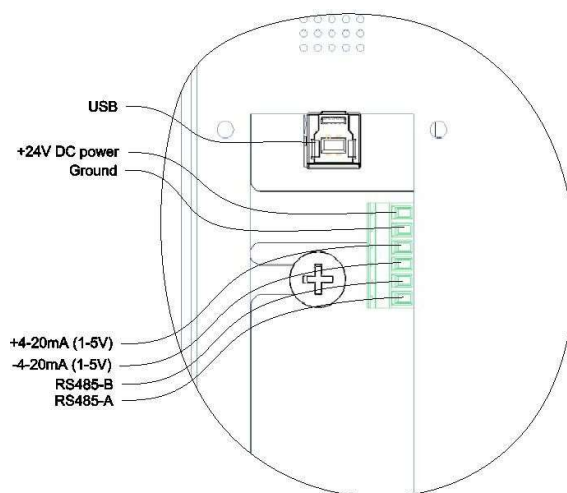
The span gas should be set to about 10 psig. Do not leave the gas cylinder on when you are not spanning the analyzer. Any leak will contaminate the span gas bottle or alternatively drain it. Turn the bottle off with the cylinder valve.

### **Exhaust:**

The exhaust must be arranged in such a way that it will not plug under any circumstances. A typical means of ensuring this is to run the exhaust line next to the (warm) gas lines so that it always remains above freezing. The exhaust is typically a flammable gas, so it must be vented in a safe area. The exhaust line should run downhill, so that pockets of condensate do not collect at the low point.

## Power connections

The analyzer is designed to operate off a nominal 12 -24V DC supply such as a lead-acid battery. The Absolute Maximum Voltage is 28VDC, and the minimum is 10V. If the power supply exceeds 28V, the unit will shut down until the excess voltage goes away, unless the voltage exceeds 240V, in which case the unit will be damaged. At some point below 7V, the unit will shut down with no damage.



**Figure 6 Electrical connections, viewed from the analyzer side**

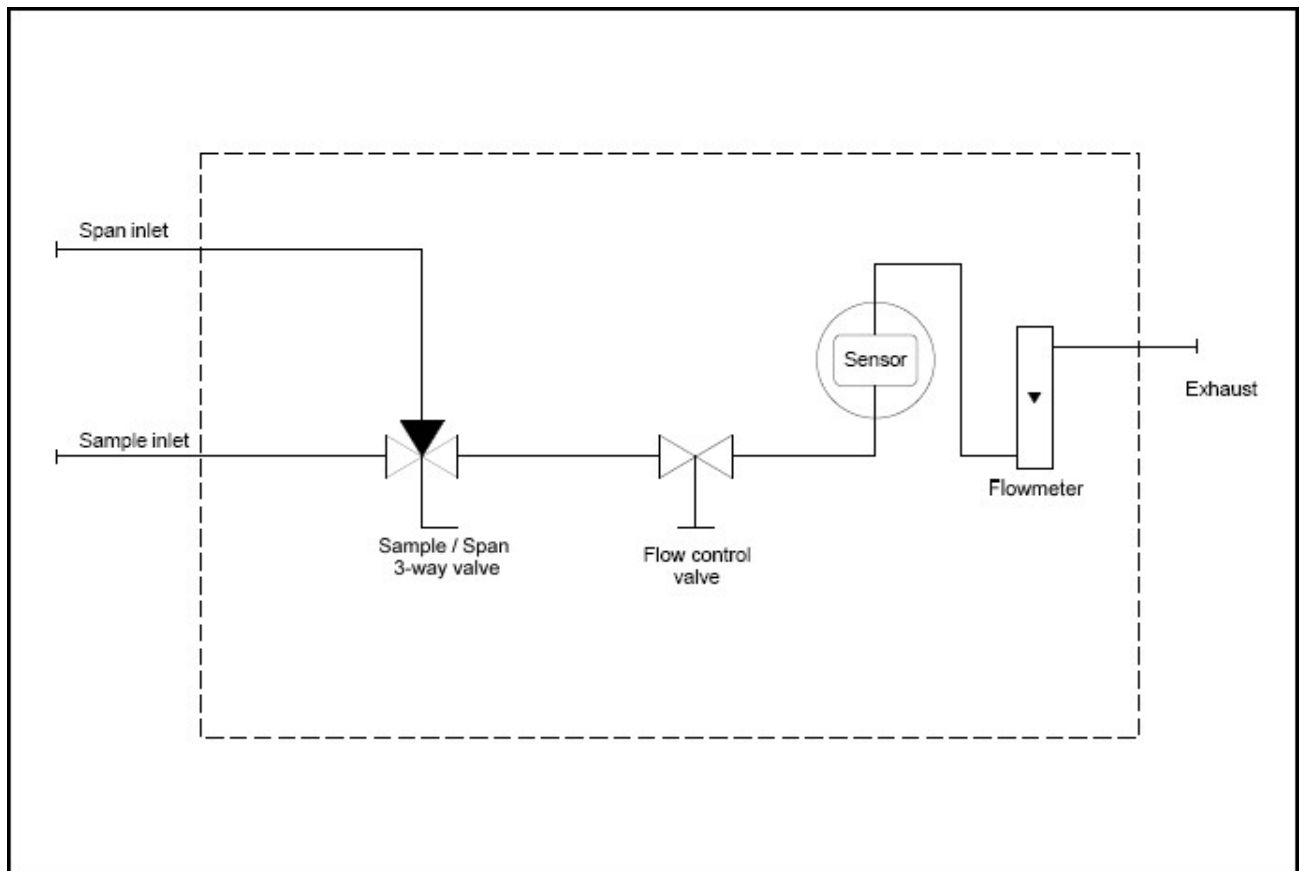
The unit is supplied with a six-position connector. The connections are as shown in Figure 6.

**The ground stud on the bottom of the box MUST be made to a good earth, with a resistance to ground of less than 1 Ohm.**

## Output connections

This unit is provided with a single output, either 4-20mA or 1-5V as ordered. It is possible to change this and also to calibrate the output to the monitoring device using the AMI User Interface. See the AMI User Interface manual for details on this.

## Sample handling



**Figure 7 Flow Schematic**

The sample is brought into the sample/span selection valve which contains an integral flow control needle valve.

The sample (or span gas) passes through the sensor compartment and exhausts through the flow meter.

The exhaust must be vented in such a fashion that the line will not freeze up, but on the other hand the flammable gas leaving the exhaust line will not pose a hazard. If there is a possibility of losing flow, a back-diffusion assembly should be used to safeguard the sensor against high oxygen levels from air saturating it.



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NOTE: Never allow the vent to become restricted, thus back pressuring the sensor. Doing so will cause inaccurate readings and may damage the sensor.

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## Gas pressures

The gas pressure must be at least 0.5 psig, and less than 150 psig. If the sample gas is at a higher pressure than that, a regulator should be used to reduce it to about 20 psig. This will allow the needle valve to give a good degree of control.

## Sensor installation

The sensor is supplied sealed in a barrier bag. When you are ready to place it in the analyzer, open the bag and place the sensor in its compartment, sensing side down. If desired, calibrate it on air and immediately flow sample gas.

## Hydrogen sulfide

The standard AMI sensors can withstand up to 10ppm of hydrogen sulfide for their expected life, while the optional P-5 sensor can withstand up to 500ppm of hydrogen sulfide for its expected life.

## Communications

The Watchdog supports both a USB link to a local PC, and RS485 over a network. Only one of these can be active at a time, and the unit automatically turns off the RS485 if it detects a computer plugged into the USB connection. Therefore, the PC connection over the USB has priority.

The USB connection supports the proprietary AMI protocol, and AMI provides a program on a CD that interfaces with the analyzer. Alternatively, it is possible for someone familiar with communications on a PC to directly use the protocol. See the AMI communications manual for details.

The RS485 port supports ModBus RTU at 9600 baud.

These are described in the various communications manuals available on the web site.

## **Advanced features**

The analyzer has many advanced features that are only accessible through the AMI User Interface. For details see the User Interface manual. The features include a data log, a calibration log, power failure log, and many other detailed bits of data. Most of these features are also available over the ModBus link.

# Maintenance and troubleshooting

## Maintenance

The Watchdog is virtually maintenance free other than for periodic calibration and occasional sensor replacement.

### Periodic calibration

The analyzer should be calibrated about once every month to obtain the best accuracy. The sensor typically declines in sensitivity by about 1% per month, so a monthly calibration is usually satisfactory. Use in a particularly aggressive environment may degrade the sensor faster: in this case calibrate more often.

You can see the “Span factor”, the internal calibration coefficient for the sensor, by pressing the UP arrow. As the sensor ages, during each calibration this factor will increase. It will start around 450, and by the time it reaches 1000 the sensor is dead. By 850 the sensor is getting pretty dubious, and it would be a good idea to replace it at that point.

### Sensor replacement

This should be done periodically, rather than as a response to a dead sensor. See the chart below for recommended sensor replacement.

Sensor	Part number	Description	Warrantied life
P-3	4SEN04	Percent oxygen – 0-25% CO2 background	6 months
P-4	4SEN08	Percent oxygen – 0-100% - inert gas	6 months
P-5	4SEN19	Percent oxygen – 0-25% CO2 with 500ppm H2S	6 months

**Table 1. AMI percent sensor types**

### Shorting clip

The sensor is shipped with a little slip of metal plugged into a tiny socket as a shorting clip. Place the sensor in the cell block and then pull out the shorting clip. This minimizes its exposure to air and helps it to come down faster.

## Sensor replacement cautions



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CAUTION: The sensor contains a caustic or acid liquid. If there is any sign of a liquid in the cell compartment, do not allow it to come into contact with your skin. If it does, immediately flush the affected area with water for a period of at least 15 minutes. Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet provided.

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Dispose of leaking or used sensors in accordance with local regulations. Sensors usually contain lead, which is toxic, and should generally not be thrown into ordinary trash. Refer to the MSDS to learn about potential hazards and corrective actions in case of any accident.



Figure 8. Inserting sensor in cell block

## Sensor replacement procedure

1. Turn off the sample gas flow using the flow selection valve on the front panel.
2. Unscrew the cell cap.
3. Remove the old sensor.
4. Open the bag containing the new sensor.
5. Push the new sensor into the block using its handle as shown above.
6. Holding the sensor in place, pull out the stainless-steel tag.
7. Allow the reading to stabilize for 45 seconds, then span the reading to 20.9%.
8. Turn the valve back to sample.
9. Replace the cell cap.
10. Screw it down tightly but only hand tight.
11. Dispose of the old sensor in an environmentally appropriate way. It is similar to a lead-acid battery in terms of environmental hazard.

# Troubleshooting

## Basics of oxygen troubleshooting

Most problems are due to either leaks or a used-up sensor.

Oxygen is of course present in air at about 3 psi partial pressure, and the rate at which it diffuses into a gas line is only dependent on the difference in the partial pressure between the gas in the line, and in air. Since there is normally (hopefully) no oxygen in the pipe, that full partial pressure differential drives oxygen into any leak, no matter what the partial pressure of any other gas may be. Any leak therefore will increase the oxygen in the sample. This is also true for span gas – a leak at the regulator on a span gas tank can allow oxygen to flow into the tank, changing its oxygen level and making any spans performed with that gas incorrect.

Typical life expectancy of a sensor is somewhere between one and two years, depending on oxygen levels. If they are exposed to too much oxygen, they will get used up, but also, they may get saturated by being exposed to too much oxygen and not be able to come down to low levels for a long time, even a matter of days. We strongly suggest that you keep its air exposure to a maximum of one minute for best downscale response time and always keep it shorted when it is not in the analyzer. Leave its shorting clip in until you have put it into the cell block, and only then pull the shorting tab out of the sensor.

If the sensor is deeply frozen (below about 25°F), or cooked (above 115°F) the membrane can be damaged and if so, it will no longer read correctly. This may or may not happen. Also, the sensor can be poisoned by excessive levels of H<sub>2</sub>S or other poisonous gases. Any of these things will cause the sensor to read too low.

Reading too high is normally caused by too much oxygen – either in real time due to a leak, or else because the sensor has been saturated with air. You may be able to detect this later by looking at the data log. If you suspect a leak, due to excessive oxygen readings, you can often get an idea of where it is by changing the sample flow rate. If the oxygen reading decreases as you increase the flow rate, that is a sure sign of a leak since the intake of oxygen is pretty constant, but the dilution of that oxygen by the sample is of course greater with a higher flow rate. If you time how long it takes for the reading to decrease, the distance to the leak source is more or less proportional to the time it takes to fall. If it goes down immediately, the source is very close to the sensor – possibly the cell cap is loose, or perhaps an O ring in the analyzer valve is damaged. If it takes a while for the reading to change, the source is further away. It can be very difficult to pinpoint the source of the leak, but don't give up – the analyzer is essentially a leak detector and it is only doing its job.

Another common problem is a reading that is too low. This is normally due either to a dead sensor, or to an incorrect calibration. If the span gas is contaminated with oxygen, when you span the analyzer, you will turn the span down too much to make the reading come out to what you thought it should be. It can be hard to figure this one out: what we suggest when things seem to be confusing is that you perform a rapid air calibration, taking less than a minute of air exposure, and then let the sensor stabilize on the

sample gas (or nitrogen); then flow the span gas and see what the analyzer reads. The sensor and analyzer are in fact very linear, so if the analyzer now says that the span gas has a lot more oxygen than the label on the tank states, you can be sure that the tank has been contaminated. If so, you have to replace it and figure out what the reason for the contamination is. Make sure that the regulator is bled properly when you install it, and leak- check all the possible leak sources. And remember that it is always possible for the gas supplier to make a mistake. Incidentally, the air calibration is quite accurate, and you can leave it like that with confidence.

A sure sign of a problem is an unexpected span factor. Check the span factor by pressing the UP button immediately after performing a calibration. If this number is below about 350 it indicates that you have spanned the sensor too low – either you have more oxygen than you think in your span gas, or the sensor hasn't equilibrated to a change in temperature yet. If the number is much greater than the last time the analyzer was calibrated, either the sensor has reached the end of its life or there is some other calibration error. Using the user interface, you can read the previous span factors as well. This number always goes up as the sensor ages (it is changed every time you span the analyzer, it doesn't change by itself). So, if it goes down, something is wrong. You have more oxygen in the span gas than you thought, (or there is something wrong with the analyzer, but this doesn't happen often).

### ***Analyzer does not power up***

1. Check that the power is connected correctly.
2. Check that the power supply voltage is between 10.0V and 28VDC.

### ***Analyzer reads too low***

1. Sensor is not calibrated. Flow span gas through it and span the analyzer until the analyzer reads appropriately.
2. If you cannot adjust the span enough to accomplish this, replace the sensor.
3. If the new sensor still reads too low, verify the span gas with a suitable reference device such as a portable analyzer.
4. If the sensor seems to die quickly, it may be getting poisoned by acid or sulfur bearing gases such as H<sub>2</sub>S. If so, use a higher H<sub>2</sub>S rated sensor such as a T-4.
5. Verify that the cell block connectors are in fact making contact with the cell. Clean them gently with a Q-tip and bend them slightly straighter so that they make a good contact. Once this is done the cell should have some resistance to being removed from the block.
6. Water may have shorted out the contacts on the back of the sensor. If so, use an Analyzer Guardian with a cooling coil or coalescing filter to make sure that condensation does not occur within the analyzer.

### ***Analyzer reads too high***

1. Verify that there is no flow restriction in the vent line of the analyzer.
2. Increase the flow rate through analyzer by increasing the sample pressure - if the reading goes down it indicates a leak in the incoming sample line or the cell block. Use “Snoop” or equivalent to check all the fittings back to the gas source.
3. Leak test all external fittings with “Snoop” soap solution or equivalent.
4. Verify that the gas flow rate is correct. (0.1 to 2 SCFH)
5. Oxygen diffusion can be a serious problem. Verify that no plastic tubing or other plastic components are used in a trace gas system, including diaphragms of pressure regulators, packing of valves etc. For percent applications, similar problems may be experienced with silicone tubing. Use Teflon® or Tygon® or similar high-quality tubing.
6. Flow zero gas through the analyzer for a while until the reading is stable: shut off the incoming flow with the sample/span valve and then immediately seal the vent tightly with a tube plug or equivalent (don't pressurize the cell!). Monitor the reading and see if it increases significantly over a 5-minute period. Such an increase indicates a leak in the cell block or internal sample system.
7. Remove the cell and place it in a cell simulator and verify that the analyzer reads zero - if not, there is moisture or corrosion between the sensor contacts in the cell block; clean the contacts and the area around them with isopropyl alcohol, dry with dry compressed air or nitrogen, then replace the cap on the cell block again. Pressurize the system to no more than 10 psig and leak check all the fittings and tubing including the sensor block penetrations such as the sensor wire seals (nylon plugs and epoxy seals on the top of the cell block).

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NOTE: Be careful not to get soap solution on the PC boards!

NOTE: Almost always, high oxygen readings are due to leaks. Oxygen in the air is under a partial pressure of about 3 psia at sea level, and thus will force its way into minute leaks, no matter what the internal pressure of any other gas may be. 3000 psig nitrogen or other gas lines look like a vacuum to oxygen! This always surprises people who have not experienced it.

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### ***Analyzer reads zero***

1. Verify that the sensor is in the correct position, not upside down. If it is upside down, verify that the membrane has not been punctured - i.e. there is no sign of electrolyte on the surface, and if not, put it back the right way up. If you have left it this way for a while, it may take several hours to recover to a low reading.
2. Verify that the cell block contacts are touching the sensor. Pull the sensor tab, and the contact should hold the sensor with a gentle force. If not, the contacts may be bent. If they have been bent too much, remove the sensor and gently bend them back so that they can again make contact.

3. Make sure that the gold-plated contact wires are clean. If not, gently clean them with a Q tip or an eraser. Do not use an abrasive cleaner, as it will remove the gold plating.
4. Check the output of the sensor with a DVM configured to measure current. Connect its leads to the two gold rings on the back of the sensor - the center is ground. The output should be around 150 to 750 micro-Amps in air. This will take a few minutes to stabilize as the sensor consumes oxygen dissolved in its electrolyte. Replace the sensor if it does not read this amount. See sensor replacement instructions under Maintenance.

### ***Incorrect readings***

1. Verify that there are no leaks in the system.
2. Verify that the span gas bottle is correctly marked by comparing its reading when the analyzer has been spanned on air to what it actually says.

### ***Still no correct operation***

1. Call AMI at 714.848.5533 and ask for technical assistance.
2. Or contact us by email at [sales@amio2.com](mailto:sales@amio2.com).

# Specifications and Disclaimer

## Specifications

- **4 user selectable output ranges to choose from:** 0-1%, 0-5%, 0-10% and 0-25%
- **Digital display:** 3-digit LCD. Reads full scale from 0.01% to 25.0% independently of output range selection
- **Isolated analog active output signal:** 1-5 VDC or 4-20 mA represents the output range selected
- **Power requirements:** 10-28 VDC <50mA. @ 12 VDC
- **Minimum detection:** 0.01% of oxygen
- **Repeatability:** +/- 1% of range or +/- 0.01% of oxygen, whichever is greater
- **Operating temperature range:** 25 to 115° F
- **Diurnal temperature specification:** < +/- 3 % of scale over temperature range
- **90% upscale response times:** <10 seconds dependent on sensor
- **Area classification:** Designed to meet requirements for Class 1, Div. 2, Groups C, D applications
- **Inlet gas pressure:** 0.5 to 150 psig
- **Gas connections:** ¼" 316 S.S. compression fittings.
- **Wetted parts:** 316 S.S. fittings, electroless nickel-plated cellblock, gold plated contacts, acrylic flow meter and Viton O-rings
- **Unaffected by changes in flow rate** from 0.1 to 2.0 SCFH
- **Mounting:** Wall mount or 2.0" pipe
- **Dimensions:** 7.0"W x 6.5"H x 4.5"D
- **Weight:** 6 lbs

## Disclaimer

Although every effort has been made to ensure that the AMI analyzers meet all their performance specifications, AMI takes no responsibility for any losses incurred by reason of the failure of its analyzers or associated components. AMI's obligation is expressly limited to the analyzer itself.

The AMI analyzer is not designed as a primary safety device, that is to say it is not to be used as the primary means of assuring personnel safety. In particular it is not designed to act as a medical instrument, monitoring breathing air for correct oxygen concentration, and should not be used as such when it is the only safety device on the gas system.

# AMI WARRANTY & SUPPORT

## LIMITED WARRANTY/DISCLAIMER

The warranty period is TWO YEARS for the Analyzer. Any failure of material or workmanship will be repaired free of charge for that specified period from the original purchase (shipping date) of the instrument. AMI will also pay for 1-way ground shipment back to the customer.

The warranty period for the electrochemical oxygen sensor is 6 months.

The warranty period for the electrochemical H<sub>2</sub>S sensor is 6 months.

The warranty period for the zirconium oxide sensor is 2 years.

Any indication of abuse or tampering of the instrument will void the warranty.

## Receiving the Analyzer

When you receive the instrument, check the package for evidence of damage and if any is found contact the shipper. Although every effort has been made to ensure that the Analyzer meets all performance specifications, AMI takes no responsibility for any losses incurred by reason of the failure of this analyzer or associated components. AMI's obligation is expressly limited to the Analyzer itself.

EXCEPT FOR THE FOREGOING LIMITED WARRANTY, AMI MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, AS TO THE NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD-PARTY RIGHTS, MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. IF APPLICABLE LAW REQUIRES ANY WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE SYSTEM, ALL SUCH WARRANTIES ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

IN NO EVENT WILL AMI BE LIABLE TO YOU FOR ANY SPECIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING ANY LOST PROFITS, LOST SAVINGS, OR OTHER INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF THE COMPANY HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, OR FOR ANY CLAIM BY ANY OTHER PARTY.

## LIMITATION OF REMEDIES

AMI's entire liability and your exclusive remedy under the Limited Warranty (see above) shall be the replacement of any Analyzer that is returned to the Company and does not meet the Company's Limited Warranty.

## FACTORY SERVICE AND SUPPORT

AMI offers calibration and repair services for their analyzers. To return an analyzer to the factory for repair or calibration, please complete a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) Request Form at [www.amio2.com/request-rma](http://www.amio2.com/request-rma). After your form has been received and reviewed, an AMI representative will contact you by email or phone with RMA number and instructions on how to ship the unit to the AMI factory.

If you have questions about your product, please contact the AMI factory at +1.714.848.5533 or complete the online Service & Support form at [www.amio2.com/quote/support](http://www.amio2.com/quote/support).