

MC-4231-CO  
ADDRESSABLE SENSOR

**Manual Part Number 180-0449**

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PRODUCTION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

**AMR.**

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.0. General**

The American Mine Research MC-4231-CO Addressable Sensor is a compact monitor designed to be used with our MC-4000 System. It has the traditional AMR quality construction, leading edge technology and maintenance free characteristics. The MC-4231-CO is essentially the same electronics as the MC-4210-CO (see 0180-0448 manual) with the addition of audible and visual alarms. It is typically used as a working section sensor and audible/visual warning device to alert section personnel in case of high carbon monoxide levels.

## **1.1. Features**

The features of the MC-4231-CO monitor are summarized below:

- Low current operation: Less than 3 ma.
- May be used in permissible areas with like type classification barriers
- Stand Alone Voltage Mode Operation
- High speed data rate: Normal 4800 baud, Fast 38.4 Kbaud
- 4 Digit LCD Display
- Span calibration value down loaded from master station
- Magnetically activated test and calibration switch (can be calibrated without removing the cover)
- Microprocessor controlled calibration (no potentiometers to adjust)
- Smart operation: testing and calibration does not set off outside alarms.
- Alarm and Warning outputs adjustable
- Optional Zero Offset
- Valid communications with Master Station indication
- Sealed polycarbonate enclosure
- Highly visible 360 degree strobe light
- 103 decible Sonalert (R)
- Uses City Technology sensor cells
- MSHA Classification XXXX

## **1.2. Default Values**

The unit is shipped from the factory with the following default settings:

- Output mode: Voltage
- Full-scale value: 50PPM
- Calibration gas : 50PPM
- Test value: 50PPM
- Warning level: 10PPM
- Alarm level: 15 PPM
- Zero Offset: 1 PPM (Zero Offset is optional and provided for some users)

## **1.3. New Features**

The American Mine Research MC-4231-CO Sensor has all the features of the earlier MC-4031 model and many more. Listed below are the new features of the MC-4231-CO sensor.

- One PC board for both sensor and communications instead of two
- Three rotary BCD switches for address instead of DIP switch
- Addressable to 256 instead of 128
- Four digit LCD display allows better resolution and range.
- Communication fuses mounted on the PC board
- Configuration switches instead of solder jumpers
- Sensor Cell ZERO calibration error and SPAN calibration error indication
  
- Can serve as a small inexpensive remote with the following input/outputs:
  - ◆ Two current sink type control outputs
  - ◆ Two 0 to 3 VDC status inputs
  - ◆ Two 0 to 3 VDC analog inputs.

## 2. SPECIFICATIONS

- Size: 7"W x 7"H x 5"D
- Operating Voltage: +10VDC to +28VDC
- Operating Mode: Voltage Mode Only
- Operating Current: Voltage Mode = 3.0mA.
- Operating Current: Addressable Sensor = 5.5mA
- Voltage Mode Output: 0.1 volts for 0 ppm
- Voltage Mode Output: 3.0 volts for 50 ppm
- Full Scale Range: Dip Switch Selectable, 25 ppm or 50 ppm
- Calibration Gas: Dip Switch Selectable, 25 ppm or 50 ppm
- Calibration Gas: Master Station Download (any value)
- Display: Four Digit LCD
- Detection Principle: Diffusion Type Electro-chemical
- Trip Outputs: Open Collector Current sink 100mA
- Warn, Alarm Trip Level: User Adjustable
- Zero Offset Level: User Adjustable (Provided for some users)
- Communication Interface: 2 Wire or 4 Wire RS-485
- Communicaton Baud Rate: 4800 or 38,400 baud
- Visual Indication: LED Cluster
- Audible Indication: 2 each Sonalerts

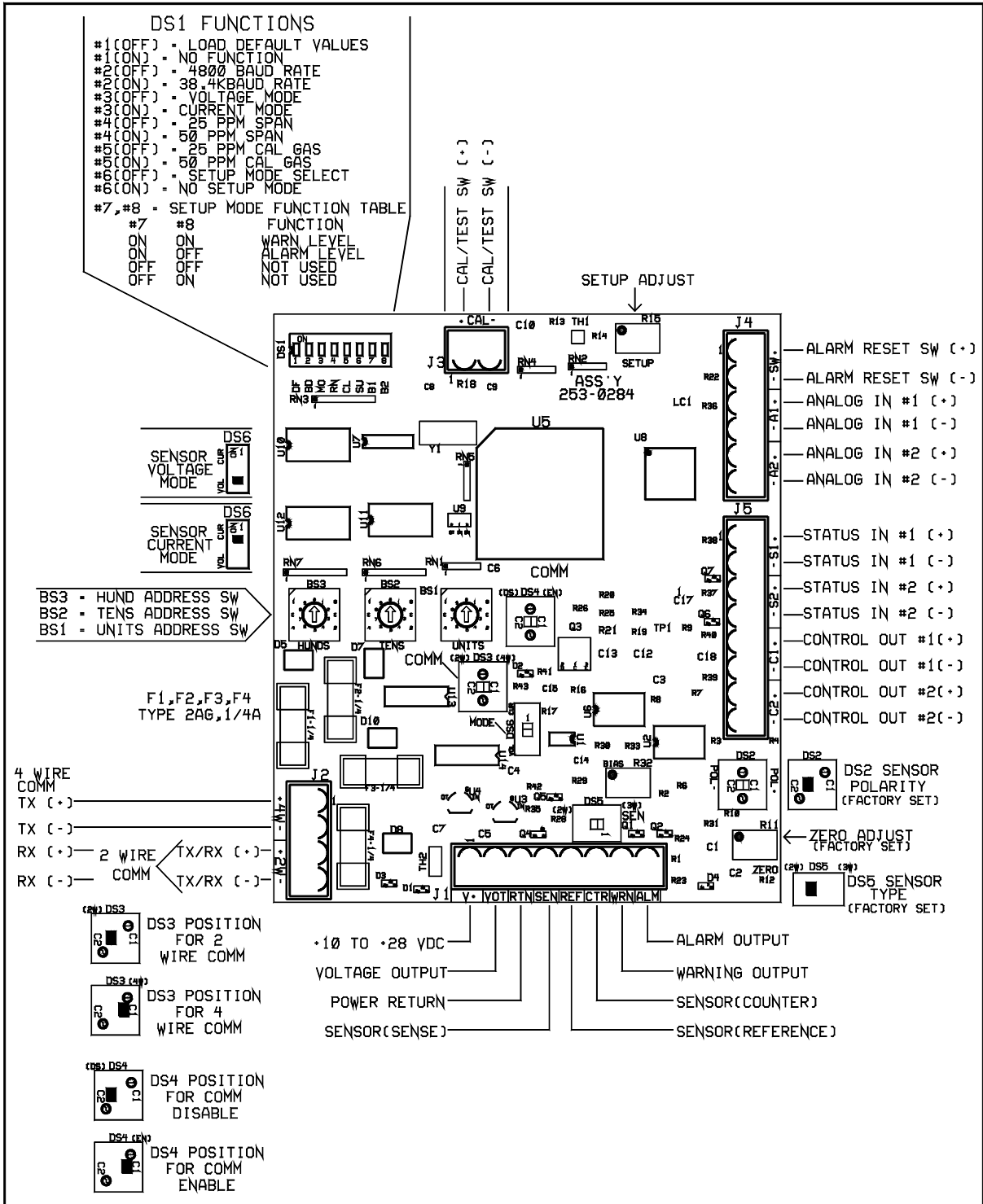


FIGURE 1, CONNECTION AND CONFIGURATION DIAGRAM



### 3. SETUP

#### 3.1. DS1 Setup Switch

The MC-4231-CO's setup is determined by an internal 8 position dip switch (DS1) as shown in Figure 1. The function of each position of the dip switch is described below:

DS1 FUNCTIONS		
SW#	POSITION	FUNCTION
1	OFF	NO FUNCTION
1	ON	LOAD DEFAULT VALUE
2	OFF	4800 BAUD RATE
2	ON	38.4K BAUD RATE
3	OFF	SENSOR VOLTAGE MODE
3	ON	SENSOR CURRENT MODE
4	OFF	25 PPM FULL SCALE SPAN
4	ON	50 PPM FULL SCALE SPAN
5	OFF	25 PPM CALIBRATION GAS
5	ON	50 PPM CALIBRATION GAS
6	OFF	SELECT SETUP MODE
6	ON	SETUP MODE OFF
7 AND 8 = SETUP MODE TRUTH TABLE BELOW		
#7	#8	FUNCTION
ON	ON	SET WARN LEVEL
OFF	ON	SET ALARM LEVEL
ON	OFF	ZERO OFFSET VALUE (IF PROVIDED)
OFF	OFF	NOT USED NOW

- Notes:** 1) The zero offset value function is provided as an option to the user by using special software. The user must request this software.  
2) The MC-4231-CO may be used in the Voltage Mode Only

Switch DS1 is a multipurpose configuration and setup switch. Each switch of DS1 is described below:

(DS1-1) When placed to ON and power is then applied to the unit, the default calibration gas and the warning and alarm trip levels are loaded into memory.

**Note:** After power has been applied, the DS1-1 switch must be placed to OFF. The load default values function is for use only as a stand-alone voltage or current mode sensor. When used as an addressable sensor, the load default values should not be used. Use the Master download function instead to change the span calibration gas level.

### 3.1. DS1 Setup Switch (Cont.)

(DS1-2) Selects the MC-4000 Monitor System baud rate. OFF = 4800, ON=38.4K.

(DS1-3) Selects sensor output mode. OFF= voltage , ON= current.

**Note:** 1) The voltage mode should be used if the sensor is an addressable type.

2) Voltage mode output of 0.1 volts represents 0 PPM and 3.0 volts represents 50 PPM full scale.

3) **Do not use Current Mode Operation because the Audible/ Visual Alarms will affect the loop current.**

4) Place DS6 to agree with the mode switch

(DS1-4) Selects sensor full scale span range. OFF= 25 PPM, ON=50 PPM

(DS1-5) Selects sensor calibration gas value OFF = 25 PPM, ON= 50 PPM

(DS1-6) Enables the sensor setup mode to allow setting the warn, alarm and zero offset levels using the setup potentiometer (R15).

OFF= SETUP MODE ENABLED, ON= SETUP MODE OFF.

(DS1-7,8) These two switches are used according to the truth table above to select the warn or alarm value that is to be set using the SETUP potentiometer (R15). To set one of these values, place DS1-6 switch to the OFF position. The display will now read the current value given by the Setup Adjust potentiometer(Figure1). The value idicated will be the previously used position of the Setup Adjust potentiometer, not necessarily the value of the currently selected parameter. Next, configure switches DS1-7,8 according to the above table. Using a small screwdriver, adjust potentiometer R15 until the desired value is displayed. Now briefly activate the test/calibrate switch. The display will blink the setup value three times indicating that the displayed value has been saved. You may now select another parameter to set using the same procedure. Once all the values have been set, return the DS1-6 switch position to ON.

### 3.2. DS2 Cell Polarity

DS2 is for **FACTORY USE ONLY**. It is used to match the sensor cell polarity for each gas in the MC-4231 services.

### 3.3. DS3 2 Wire/4 Wire Comm

DS3 allows the MC-4231 to operate with either a 2 wire monitor system interface such as the MC-4000 system or a 4 wire monitor system. Push the switch to 2W to select 2 wire. Push the switch to 4W to select 4 wire.

### **3.4. DS4 Comm Enable/Disable**

DS4 will enable or disable the MC-4000 communication transceiver devices. Disabling these devices will reduce current consumption when the monitor is used in a **STAND ALONE** voltage mode application. Push the switch to DS to disable communication. Push the switch to EN to enable communication.

### **3.5. DS5 2 Wire/3 Wire Cell**

DS5 is for FACTORY USE ONLY. It is used to match the sensor cell type (2 wire or 3 wire) for each gas in the MC-4231 services.

### **3.6. DS6 Sensor Mode**

Switch DS6 is used to select the sensor output mode. VOL = voltage, CUR = current. **Note:** The MC-4231-CO may not be used in the Current Mode. Place DS1-3 to proper position also.

### **3.7. Address Switches**

Rotary BCD switches BS3, BS2 and BS1 set the monitor address for the MC-4000 System. Valid monitor address are between 1 and 255.

### **3.8. Setup Adjust**

Setup Adjust (R15) is used in conjunction with the DS1 Setup Mode switches to adjust the warning and alarm trip levels and the zero offset value.

### **3.9. Zero Adjust**

Zero adjust (R11) is FACTORY SET ONLY. It is used to match the different sensor cells to the MC-4231 electronics.

**Note: This should not be user adjusted unless a calibration error “E” is displayed in the left digit of the LCD display during ZERO calibration of the sensor. See ZERO calibration in the calibration section 6.1. of this manual.**

### **3.10. Reference Adjust**

Reference Adjust (R32) is FACTORY SET ONLY. It is used to match the different types of sensor cells to the MC-4231 electronics. **Note: This should not be user adjusted.**

### **3.11. Comm Fuses**

Fuses F1 thru F4 are RS-485 data line protection fuses that protect the communications circuitry from voltage transients on the communications line. Insure that these fuses are in place and are not open when sensor communications problems occur.

## 4. CONFIGURATION

### 4.0. General

Refer to Figure 1, Connection and Configuration Diagram for MC-4231-CO Sensor. The MC-4231-CO monitor may be configured for a variety of uses. It may be used as a stand alone gas sensor in the voltage mode or it may be used with the American Mine Research MC-4000 Monitor System and serve as remote gas sensor. It may also serve as a small remote for monitor and control applications. Configuration involves setting various switches to allow the MC-4231-CO monitor to perform the different functions.

### 4.1. Current Loop Mode Sensor (Stand Alone)

**Note: The MC-4231-CO monitor may not be used in the Current Mode.**

### 4.2. Voltage Mode Sensor (Stand Alone)

To use the MC-4231-CO monitor in the stand alone voltage mode connect the monitor as described in the INSTALLATION section set the configuration switches as follows:

SWITCH	FUNCTION	POSITION
DS4	COMM ENAB/DISAB	DISABLE
DS6	MODE SELECT	VOLTAGE
DS1-3	MODE SELECT	OFF

### 4.3. MC-4000 Monitor System Sensor/Remote

To use the MC-4231-CO monitor with the MC-4000 system as a gas sensor or as a combination sensor/small remote, connect the monitor as described in the INSTALLATION section. Set these switches as follows:

SWITCH	FUNCTION	POSITION
DS4	COMM ENAB/DISAB	ENABLE
DS6	MODE SELECT	VOLTAGE
DS1-3	MODE SELECT	OFF

Set DS1-2 to select the desired baud rate (OFF for 4800, ON for 38.4k baud).

Set BS3, BS2, and BS1 to the desired monitor address for the MC-4000 System.

Set DS3 to select 2 wire communication interface.

Insure that fuses F1 thru F4 are in place and are functional.

## 5. INSTALLATION

### 5.0. General

The MC-4231-CO may be installed in a variety of configurations to solve almost any gas sensor requirements. The audible/visual alarm feature of the monitor is typically used as a working face section alarm to alert personnel of high carbon monoxide levels. When used in the voltage output mode, the monitor may also be connected to the American Mine Research MC-4000 System Master Station via 2 wire or 4 wire RS-485 hardware interface.

wire The monitor uses City Technology sensor cells and will accept both 2 wire and 3 type cells.

more The monitor may also be used as a monitor system small remote. In addition to the 100 milliamperere current sink type Warn and Alarm outputs, the monitor has two 100 millampere current sink type outputs triggered by the two digital status inputs. The two digital status inputs accept 0 to 5 VDC and trigger the control outputs at 2.5 VDC. The digital status information is sent to the MC-4000 System Master Station. The monitor will also accept two analog voltage inputs and send this information to the MC-4000 System Master Station. The analog voltage range is 0 to 3 VDC.

## 5.1. Power Connections

The MC-4231-CO monitor may be installed in a variety of configurations to accomplish different monitoring functions. Use Figure 1 and Figure 2 as reference for making connections in the following discussion of all the monitor applications.

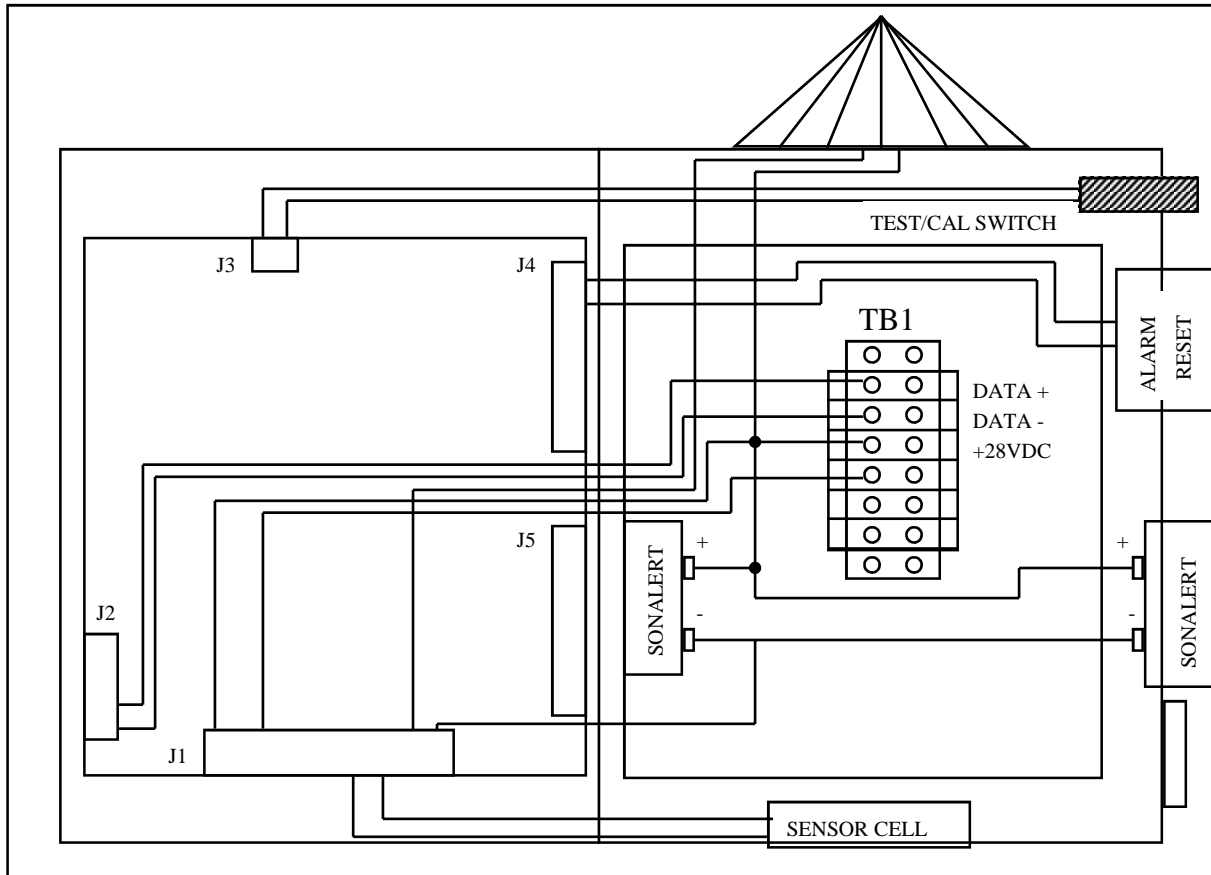


FIGURE 2, MC-4231-CO MONITOR CONNECTION



### 5.1.1. Power Connection (Stand Alone Voltage Mode)

Refer to Figure 3. The sensor operates over the voltage range of 10 VDC to 28 VDC. Connect the (+) side of the voltage source to connector J1-1 (V+). Connect the (-) side of the voltage source to connector J1-3 (RTN). If the voltage output is used, connect it to J1-2 (VOT).

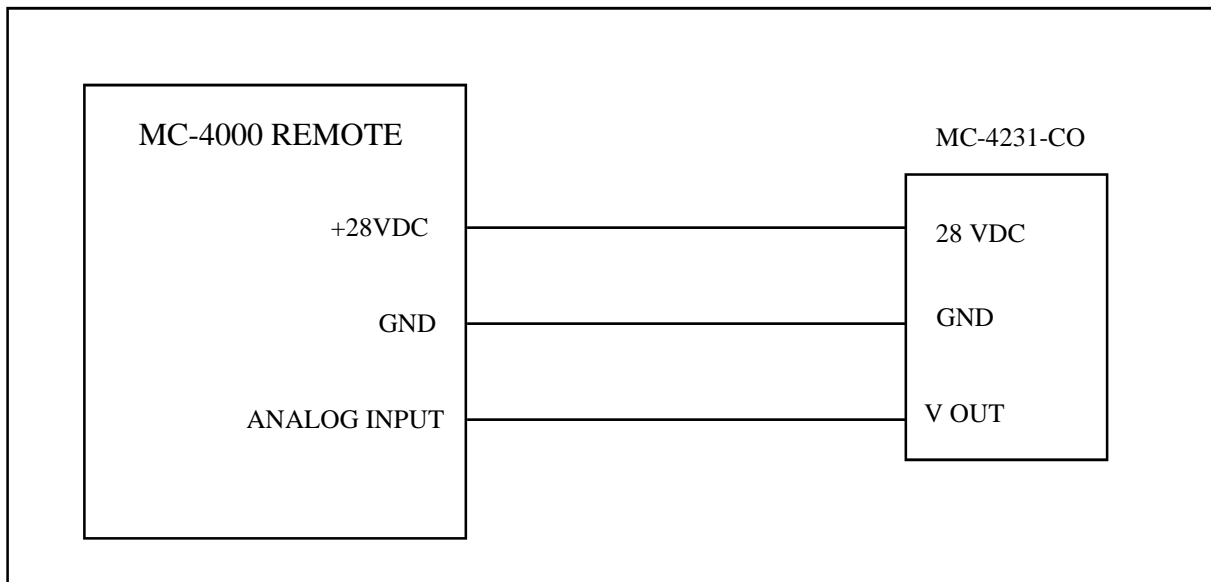


FIGURE 3, STAND ALONE VOLTAGE MODE CONNECTION TO MC-4000 MONITOR SYSTEM

### 5.1.2. Power Connection (Voltage Mode in Permissible Area)

Refer to Figure 4. To use the MC-4231-CO monitor in permissible areas, it is necessary to make connections through a Class J barrier. **Please note the supply voltage must be limited to 20 VDC.** Make connections from the **Blue Remote** to the barrier and from the barrier to the MC-4231-CO monitor as shown in Figure 4. Use the correct barrier classification types and use shielded cable between the remote barrier and the MC-4231-CO monitor.

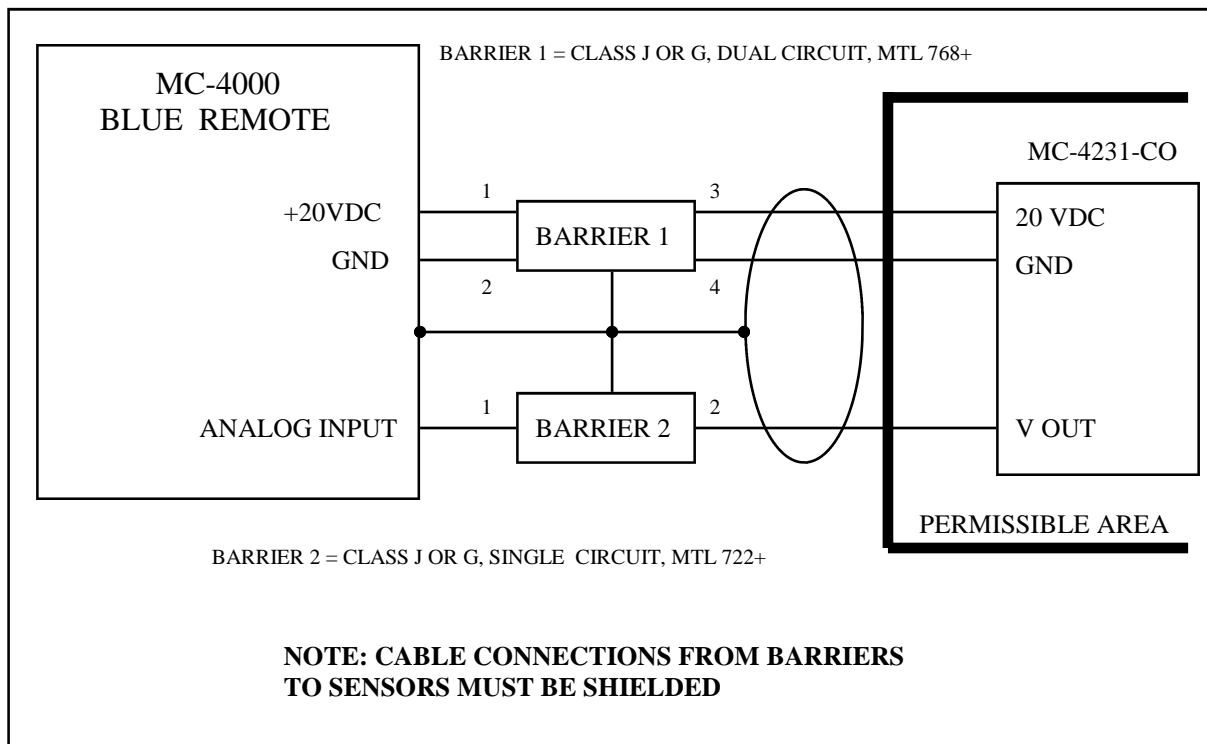


FIGURE 4, STAND ALONE VOLTAGE MODE SENSOR IN PERMISSIBLE AREA

## 5.2. Sensor Cell Connection

The MC-4231 monitor may be connected to either 2 wire or 3 wire City Technology sensor cells.

For 2 wire cells, connect the SENSE (white/black wire) to J1-4 (SEN) and connect the COUNTER (white/red wire) to J1-6 (CTR). **Note:** The REF is not used with the 2 wire sensor cell.

For 3 wire cells, connect the SENSE (white/black wire) to J1-4 (SEN). Connect the REFERENCE (white wire) to J1-5 (REF) and connect the COUNTER (white/red wire) to J1-6 (CTR).

## 5.3. Warn/Alarm Output Connection

The warning and alarm outputs are used to provide audible and visual outputs to indicate the monitor preset levels have been exceeded. The MC-4231-CO uses 2 each 103 dB Sonalerts as an audible indicator and a 10 LED cluster as a visual indicator. Connect the (+) side of both the audible and visual devices to + 28 VDC. Connect the (-) side of the LED cluster to J1-7(WRN). Connect the (-) side of the Sonalerts to J1-8 (ALM).

## 5.4. Alarm Reset Switch Connection

A push-button alarm reset switch is provided to turn the Sonalerts OFF after they have been activated. Connect the reset switch to J4-1 and J4-2.

## 5.5. Analog Input # 1 and Analog Input # 2 Connection

When the MC-4231-CO monitor is used with the MC-4000 Monitor System, it may be connected to other sensors or transducers that provide a voltage output of 0 to +3 VDC or a 4 to 20 current mode output. The monitor will convert the analog input signal and send the value back to the MC-4000 Monitor System Master Station.

Analog input # 1 is connected between J4-3(+) and J4-4 (-). Analog # 2 is connected between J4-5 (+) and J4-6(-).

If the input is from a voltage mode sensor, connect the (+) voltage output and the (-) return to the connector as defined above.

If the input is from a current mode sensor, connect the current loop monitor resistor across the J4 (+) and (-) connections as defined above.

## **5.6. Status Input # 1 and Status Input # 2 Connection**

The MC-4231 may be used to monitor digital (ON/OFF) status signals to perform output control functions (start/stop pump as a function of water level). When the MC-4231 monitor is used with the MC-4000 Monitor System, it may be used as a small remote to monitor and control digital (ON/OFF) signals. The status input voltage must be in the range of 0 to 5 VDC. Status input #1 is connected between J5-1(+) and J5-2 (-). Status input #2 is connected between J5-3 (+) and J5-4 (-).

## **5.7. Control Output # 1 and Control Output # 2 Connection**

The MC-4231 the monitor has two 100 milliamperere current sink type outputs that are triggered by the two digital status inputs. These outputs may be used in conjunction with an interface relay to perform heavy duty control applications (start/stop pump as a function of water level). Connect the (+) side of the device to be controlled to the (+) side of the power source (+28 VDC or less). Connect the (-) side of the device to be controlled to either J5-5 (#1 output) or J5-7 (# 2 output). Connect the RETURN of the power source to either J5-6 (#1 output) or J5-8 (# 2 output).

## **5.8. Calibration/Test Switch Connection**

Connect the magnetically activated reed switch used for calibrating and testing the MC-4231 to connector J3.

## **5.9. 2-Wire MC-4000 Monitor System Connection**

If the MC-4231 is used either as a gas sensor or as a small remote with the American Mine Research MC-4000 Monitor System it must be connected to the RS-485 communication data line using the 2 wire connection scheme as shown in Figure 2. Connect the data (+) (TB1-1) wire to J2-3 and data (-) (TB1-2) wire to J2-4.

## **5. 10. 4-Wire Monitor System Connection**

the If the MC-4231 is used either as a gas sensor or as a small remote with a 4 wire monitor system it must be connected to the RS-485 communication data line using the 4 wire connection scheme shown in Figure 3. Connect the Master Station TX(+) (TB1-1) wire to J2-1 and TX(-)(TB1-2) wire to J2-2. Connect the Master Station RX(+) wire to J2-3 and RX(-) wire to J2-4. Connect +28VDC (TB1-5) to J1-1 and GND (TB1-6) to J1-3.

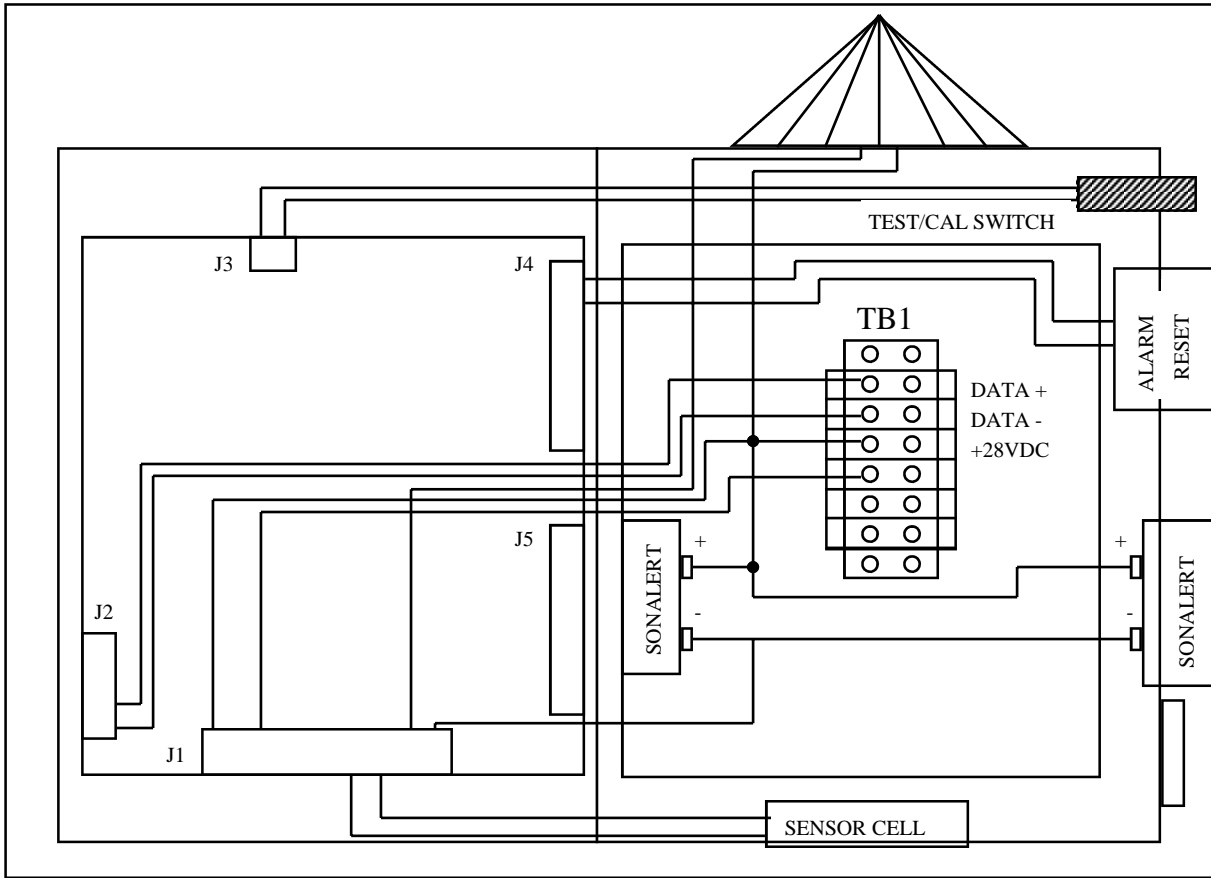


FIGURE 5, MC-4231-CO MONITOR CONNECTION

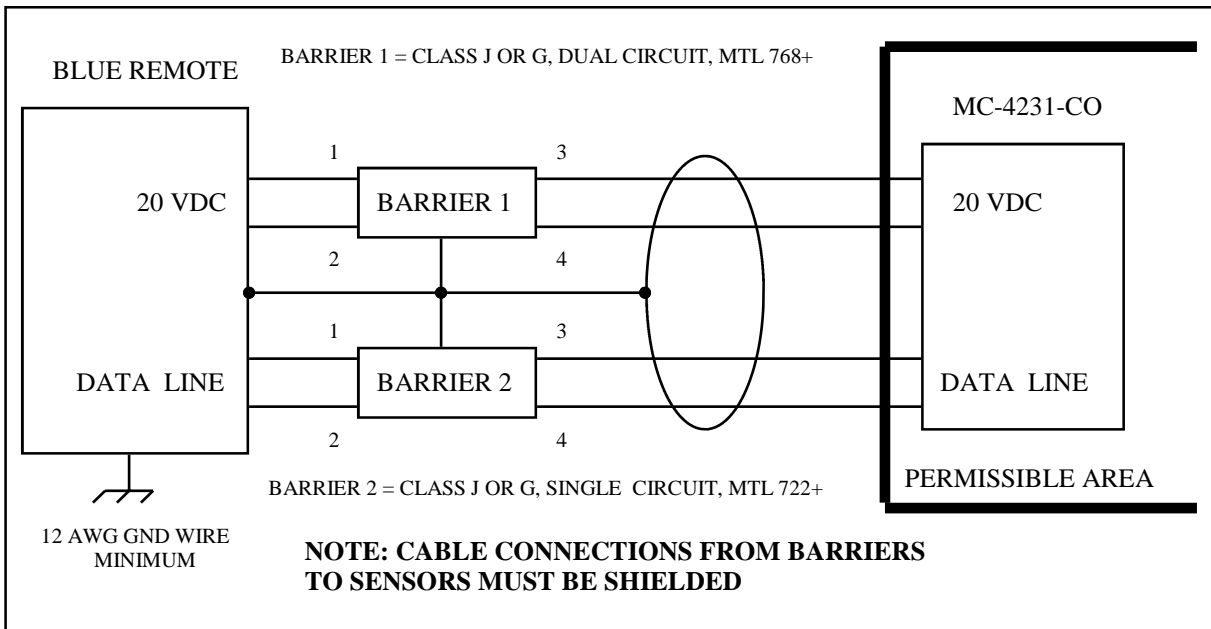


FIGURE 6, 2 WIRE ADDRESSABLE MONITOR THRU BARRIERS

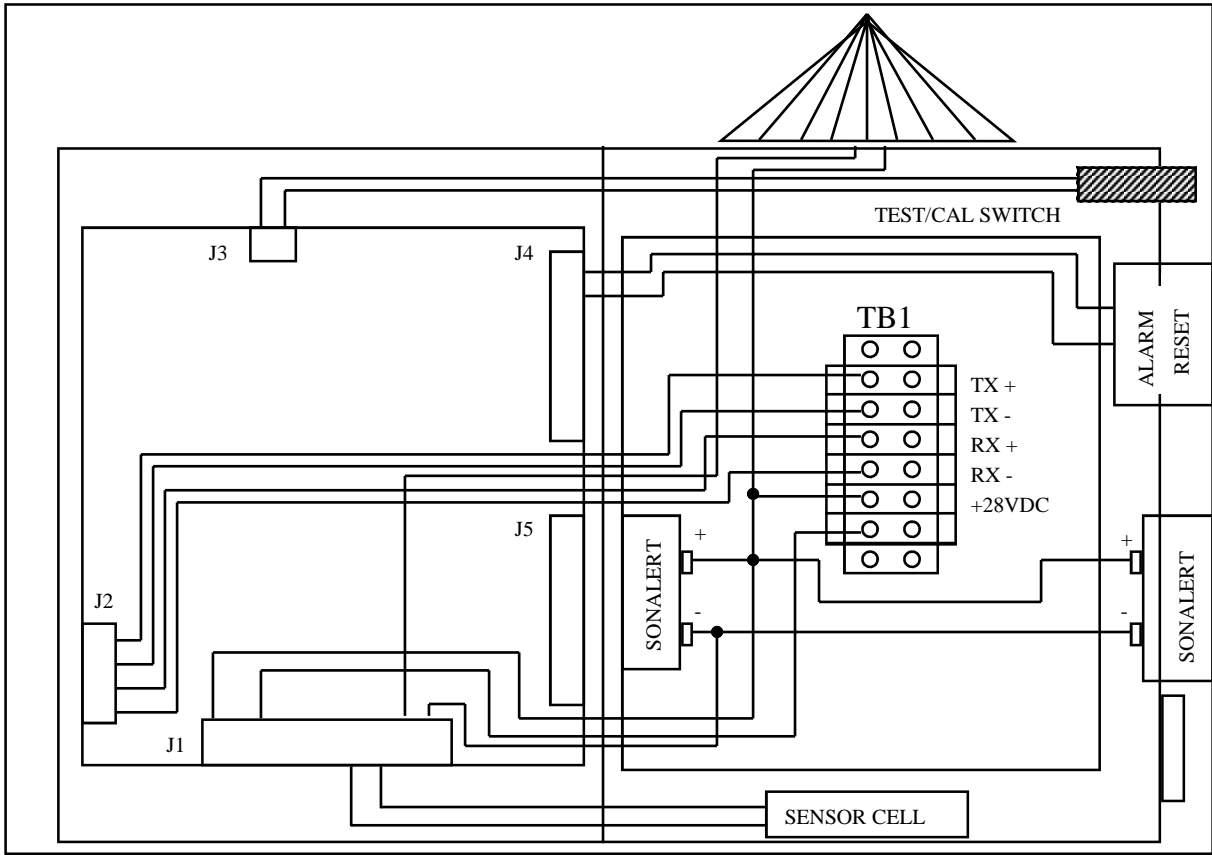


FIGURE 7, MC-4231 (4 WIRE ADDRESSABLE SENSOR)

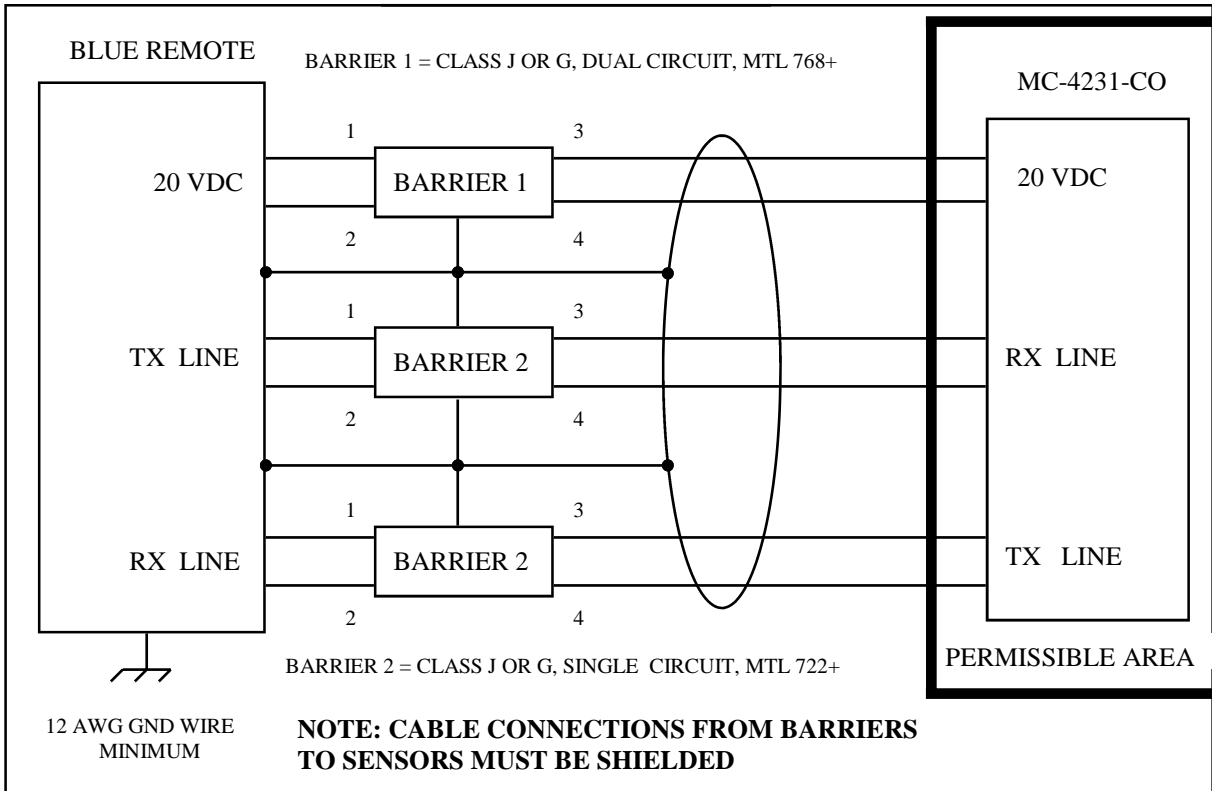


FIGURE 8, 4 WIRE ADDRESSABLE MONITOR THRU BARRIERS

## 6. CALIBRATION

### 6.0. General

Calibration of the monitor is required by law to be performed every 30 days to allow the monitor electronics to compensate for any aging of the sensor cell. The process consists of applying **ZERO** and **SPAN** gases to the sensor cell and holding a magnet to the TEST/CALIBRATE magnetic switch to allow the electronics to save the two values.

### 6.1. Zero Calibration

- 1) Apply a ZERO gas to the sensor cell input and wait 2 minutes for the cell to stabilize.
- 2) Hold a magnet to the magnetically activated CAL/TEST switch
- 3) Observe the LCD display and verify the value jumps to 2 or 3 PPM and then slowly decreases to ZERO. When the display reaches ZERO also observe that the display now blinks ZERO. This indicates the ZERO parameters for the sensor cell have been saved in memory. It also starts a timer that gives the operator 3 minutes to properly perform the SPAN calibration.
- 4) Remove the magnet from the CAL/TEST switch
- 5) During ZERO calibration of the sensor electronics, the unit evaluates the amplified gas sensor cell output and the sensor electronics ZERO adjust to determine that the amplified cell output value is between 0.10 VDC and 0.50 VDC at the test point TP1. If the voltage is not between these two values a **sensor calibration error "E"** will appear in the left digit of the LCD display as the LCD begins to flash "**E00**". The "**E**" error indication will remain **ON** until the ZERO is adjusted and the sensor is re-calibrated. The MC-4000 Master Station will also be notified that a calibration error has occurred at this sensor. Should the "**E**" error indication occur, open the sensor enclosure door and connect a VOM between TP1 and POWER RETURN (J1-3). Adjust the ZERO ADJUST potentiometer until the VOM indicates 0.30 VDC. Perform the ZERO calibration again.
- 6) Remove the ZERO gas from the sensor cell and prepare to perform the SPAN calibration.

## 6.2. Span Calibration

- 1) Apply a SPAN gas to the sensor cell input and wait 2 minutes for the cell to stabilize. Observe that the LCD display value increases and stabilizes.
- 2) Hold a magnet to the magnetically activated CAL/TEST switch.
- 3) Observe the LCD display and verify the value jumps 2 or 3 PPM below the desired SPAN calibration value then slowly increases to the SPAN calibration gas value. When the display reaches the SPAN value also observe that the display now blinks the SPAN value. This indicates the SPAN parameters for the sensor cell have been saved in memory.
- 4) Remove the magnet from the CAL/TEST switch.
- 5) During SPAN calibration of the sensor electronics, the unit evaluates the amplified gas sensor cell output to determine that the value is between 1.50 VDC and 3.00VDC at the test point TP1. If the voltage is not between these two values a **sensor calibration error “E”** will appear in the left digit of the LCD display as the LCD begins to flash the full scale value. The “E” error indicates that the sensor cell is defective and should be replaced. The “E” will remain **ON** until the sensor cell is replaced and re-calibrated properly. The MC-4000 Master Station will also be notified that a calibration error has occurred at this sensor.  
**Note: There is no adjustment available to bring the amplified sensor cell output back into the proper range. Replace the sensor cell or the entire unit.**
- 6) Remove the SPAN gas from the sensor cell and observe that the LCD display returns to zero or to the ambient value.



## **7. TESTING**

### **7.0. General**

The TEST operation displays certain calibration and setup values along with the address of the monitor (when used with the MC-4000 system). During TEST, the WARN and ALARM outputs will be activated and the MC-4000 Master Station will be alerted that the monitor is performing a TEST so the Master Station generated alarms may be prohibited.

### **7.1. Perform Test**

- 1) Quickly tap the CAL/TEST switch with a magnet. Observe the display reading.
- 2) The LCD display will show the following values in the order below:
  - a. SPAN calibration value
  - b. Monitor Electronics Test (value slowly rises to 20 PPM)
  - c. WARN trip level (Factory set to 10 ppm)
  - d. ALARM trip level (Factory set to 15 ppm)
  - e. ADDRESS for use with the MC-4000 monitor system

#### **Notes:**

- 1) The SPAN calibration may be changed by performing a MC-4000 monitor system download operation.
- 2) The WARN and ALARM trip levels may be changed using the SETUP procedures( See Operation section using DS1 for SETUP operation).
- 3) If there is valid communications with the MC-4000 Monitor System Master Station, the ADDRESS number will blink. If there is no communications with the Master Station, the ADDRESS number will be displayed but will not blink.

## 8. INSTALLATION CHECK LIST

Use the Setup, Configuration, and Installation sections as an aid to place the appropriate switches in the correct positions for the desired monitor function (stand alone current loop output, stand alone voltage output or MC-4000 system monitor).

- ◇ If the monitor function voltage mode sensor perform the following:
  - ◇ Switch DS4 to Comm Disable (Section 4.2., page 13)
  - ◇ Switch DS6 to Voltage Mode (Section 4.2., page 13)
  - ◇ Switch DS1-3 to OFF (Section 4.2., page 13)
  - ◇ Connect Power (Section 5.1.1., page 17)
  
- ◇ If the monitor function is a MC-4000 system monitor perform the following:
  - ◇ Switch DS4 to Comm Enable (Section 4.3., page 14)
  - ◇ Switch DS6 to Voltage Mode (Section 4.3., page 14)
  - ◇ Switch DS1-3 to OFF (Section 4.3., page 14)
  - ◇ Set DS1-2 for desired Baud Rate (Section 3.1., page 10)
  - ◇ Set Address Switches (Section 3.7., page 11)
  - ◇ Wire for 2 wire or 4 wire communications Section 5.8. or 5.9., page 20)
  - ◇ Connect Power (Section 5.1.1., page 17)
  
- ◇ Calibrate the monitor if required using Section 6.
  
- ◇ Test the monitor if required using Section 7.

## 9. REPLACEMENT PARTS

<b>Part Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
253-0284	Sensor Board
270_0117	CO Sensor Cell Assembly
125-0160	Enclosure (MC-4231)
066-0009	LCD Display
270-0111	Test/Calibration Switch
150-0140	6 Position Terminal Block(Back Plate)
160-0036	Fuse for F1 - F4
037-0028	Sonalert
270-0133	LED Permissible Visual Alarm

Assembly