reference material

A substance or mixture of substances, the composition of which is known within specified limits, and one or more of the properties of which is sufficiently well established to be used for the calibration of an apparatus, the assessment of a measuring method or for assigning values to materials. Reference materials are available from national laboratories in many countries [e.g. National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), USA.; Community Bureau of Reference, UK].

Source:
PAC, 1990, 62, 2167 (Glossary of atmospheric chemistry terms (Recommendations 1990)) on page 2210