

## Archive - Electronic Reporting of Continuous Emission Monitoring (CEMS) Data

### April 2010

Good afternoon CEMS data providers:

Please note that changes are being made to the data format for the Electronic Reporting of CEMS data and will be effective starting with the submission of the April 2010 data set.

In January 2009, an email was mailed to CEM data providers explaining the need to flag both the Backfilled and Substituted data. As a result, the data format has been changed as follows:

#### Backfill

The following is a sample RD record that identifies the fields that will need to be revised to submit the backfilled data.

RD||145555|2615|1|1HR|kg|2438|20091031|2300|10.44|CP|1HR|99904|TOT|||comments|NOP||BKF||

Sample values for reported parameters for mass are to be entered based on the procedure approved and recorded in your QAP for your CEMS as per the CEMS Code.

Acceptable Analyzer Comment/Null Data Codes, field 12; can be found in the User Manual in Table 6.

Qualifier 8, field 21

- BKF = Backfill

Only mass is required to be backfilled, all other missing parameters can be reported with a blank and the appropriate null data code.

#### Substitution

The following is a sample RD record to identify the fields that will need to be altered to submit the Substituted data.

RD||145555|2615|1|1HR|kg|2438|20091031|2300|10.44|CP|1HR|99904|TOT|||comments|NOP||SUB||

Sample values for reported parameter in kg will be reported based on acceptable procedure dictated by the CEMS Code.

Analyzer Comment/ Null Data Code, field 12; can be found in the User Manual in Table 6.

Qualifier 8, field 21

- SUB = Substitution

**As of the April 2010 data set, no blank values will be accepted for Mass submissions.**

**NEW** - Qualifier 8, field 21

BKF Backfill

SUB Substitution

CTP Conditioning Test Period - as Described in section 4.5.1 of the CEMS Code 1989

OTP Operational Test Period - as Described in section 4.5.2 of the CEMS Code 1989

Marilyn

**January 13, 2009**

Dear CEMS data provider:

As a result of the current move to the Electronic Reporting of the Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) data, there have been numerous questions and concerns expressed regarding the interpretation of the Alberta CEMS Code (1998) with respect to the four (4) equally spaced data points used to calculate a valid hour of data. As a result, Alberta Environment is providing the following interpretation:

- Data reporting is required for all times that the source is emitting, including partial hours.
- Where a system has the capability of measuring/reporting the data continuously, all valid data points must be used in the calculation of the hourly total.
- The requirement for 4 equally spaced data points does not necessarily mean four 15-minute blocks, but four points equally spaced over the time that the source is emitting and the equipment is functioning. The fifteen-minute data block was originally specified to accommodate time-share monitoring systems and data acquisition systems with limited memory.
- In order to not create the immediate need to replace older data acquisition systems that have limited memory capacity, these systems will not be expected to meet this interpretation. However, it is expected that as new systems are installed, these changes will be incorporated in the new system design. This includes, in particular, the reporting of mass emissions.
- During times when the CEMS system is not generating valid data, backfilling is required and needs to be done in a manner accepted in writing by Alberta Environment.
- Data substitution of CEMS generated data is acceptable. However, this data needs to be flagged and the source of the substitute data identified.

Should you have any questions please call the CEM Coordinator at 780-415-9379.

Sincerely;

Marilyn Albert for the  
Designated Director under the Act

Should you not be the contact for the CEMS reporting for your facility, can you please forward to the correct person, and CC:

- [marilyn.albert@gov.ab.ca](mailto:marilyn.albert@gov.ab.ca)