

AQS Software Release Notes for April 22, 2011

The following AQS problems were addressed:

1. Problem: The “Maintain Monitor” form incorrectly allowed Required Collection Frequency dates to overlap.
Fix: “Maintain Monitor” form will not allow Required Collection Frequency dates to overlap.
2. Problem: The AMP255 Data Quality Indicator Report indicated “missing” precision checks and audits for SO₂ 5-minute data, but these shouldn’t be part of the report.
Fix: More sophistication was added to the report. The AMP255 no longer reports the 5-minute data, and will only report the hourly SO₂ data.
3. Problem: An error was reported in the quarterly creditable sample count on the AMP480 Design Value Report.
Fix: The Quarterly Creditable Sample Counts have been corrected.

Other general issues:

1. Removal of “suspended particulate (TSP)” or “11101” from “Criteria” list.
For AQS Standard Reports that support Criteria Pollutants, the selection list for “Criteria” includes “Suspended particulate (TSP)”, code 11101. Since it is no longer appropriate to include TSP as a Criteria pollutant, the AQS team would like to remove TSP from the Criteria list; please contact us via AQSTeam@epa.gov if this would cause any difficulty for you.
2. AQS Qualifier code “9” – “Negative value detected – zero reported” – this qualifier is again being allowed for a *limited* time.
In the past month or so, there has been considerable discussion on using this qualifier code. The AQS Team recognizes that the practice has been to replace the negative value with a zero, and to flag the value with the qualifier code “9.” However, the OAQPS monitoring group has determined that this practice introduces statistical bias into the computations. Consequently, the AQS Team disallowed qualifier code “9” for several pollutants (refer to memo “Addendum to Negative Values in AQS.”) However, we received requests from several agencies to allow qualifier code “9” until these agencies could update their own programs to comply. So, we are allowing qualifier code “9” again but expect to review the issue in August 2011.

3. DISCOVERER users: If you are retrieving data for Exceptional Events, it is easiest for you to use this purpose-built folder: "Raw_Data_Concurrences" which contains:
 - State, County, Tribal code, and Site ID
 - Parameter code
 - POC
 - Sampling Begin Datetime (Date/time for Sample Measurement, *not* the Monitor Start Date/time)
 - Standard Sample Value, Standard Unit code, and Standard Unit description
 - Reported Sample Value, and Reported Unit code
 - Method code
 - Duration code
 - Exceptional Event ID
 - Pollutant Standard ID, and Standard Description
 - Null Data code, and Null Data description
 - Null Code concurrence
 - QA qualifier
 - Event code, and Event code description
 - Post date (Date the sample measurement was posted to AQS)
 - RD Flag date (Date the raw data was flagged with a qualifier)
 - Event description (Describes the exceptional event that may have affected the data)
 - Event Association date (Date that the sample measurement was associated with an event)
 - Event Concurrence Indicator
 - Event Concurrence date (Date that EPA RO provided Concurrence)
 - Event Concurrence comment

4. Absolute Sample Minimum and Maximum values

For gaseous pollutants, the Absolute Minimum Sample Value has been set as the negative of the Method Detection Limit.

Absolute Min and Max are specified by method code. Data below the Abs Min or above the Abs Max will be *rejected* by the LOAD process.

There are three ways to get the federal MDL values:

- a) Sampling Methodologies, including MDL, are posted on the TTN website (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/manuals/codedescs.htm>) - follow the "All Pollutants" link
- b) Within AQS, use the menu to find RETRIEVAL → BROWSE_SAMPLING_METHODODOLOGY and then query in specific values by parameter and/or method code.
- c) Discoverer query "Method info per parameter" has been shared with all AQS users. Query contains info on methodology, federal MDL, absolute min & absolute max values accepted, summary scale, and standard units for each parameter.