

EIM Help – valid values

Version 3.0

November 2017

What are EIM valid values?

When you submit data, EIM requires that you populate certain fields with specific values, known as “valid values.” Examples are Result Parameter Name (e.g. 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene) and Result Method (e.g. SW6010 - ICP-AES for Metals & Trace Elements). When you submit your data to EIM, it compares the valid values in your data entry template to those stored in EIM. For each field, your valid values must match those in EIM, otherwise your data will not load.

Where do I find EIM valid values?

1. Template help

The template help documents show you if a field has valid values and if so, what valid values are allowed. Find them here: [Templates and Help](#) in the EIM Help Center.

Short valid values lists: In spreadsheet (e.g. Sample Matrix; Result Help)

X	Sample Matrix	Describes the general environmental medium which was measured or from which a sample was taken.	REQUIRED	Alpha	14	Air/Gas, Other Liquid, Habitat, Solid/Sediment, Tissue, Water	Tip: the matrix for porewater is solid/sediment.
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Medium valid values lists: In separate worksheet (e.g. Sample Source; Result Help)

Y	Sample Source	Describes the environmental resource which was measured or from which a sample was taken. More specific than Sample Matrix.	REQUIRED	Alpha	30	Must be a valid EIM Sample Source Code. See table of Sample Source valid values (in this document).	Ex. “Fresh/Surface Water”
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Valid Value	Additional Info
Air/Gas	
Indoor Air	
Outdoor Air	
Landfill Gas	Ambient landfill gas monitoring. Not what is vented into a treatment system.
Soil Gas	Gaseous elements and compounds in the small spaces between particles of the earth and soil
Animal/Plant	
Animal Tissue	
Animal Tissue - Lab Exposure	Animal tissue purposefully exposed to specific contaminants in a lab setting
Plant Tissue	
Periphyton	Mixture of algae, cyanobacteria, heterotrophic microbes, and other elements that are attached to submerged surfaces in aquatic settings.
Freshwater Taxonomy	Taxonomic information about freshwater organisms. Download help for “Benthic Organism Counts - Freshwater.”
Salt/Marine Taxonomy	Taxonomic information about salt/marine water organisms. Download help for “Benthic Organism Counts - Marine.”

Long valid values lists: In valid values search (e.g. Result Parameter Name; Result Help)

AH	Result Parameter Name	Name of the parameter reported for the result. Parameters are most often thought of as chemical analytes, but also include things like temperature, fish weight, flow, etc.	REQUIRED	Alpha	254	Must be a valid EIM Parameter Name Search for EIM Parameter Names (online). Observations - use "Unable to measure."	Ex. "Cadmium" or "Fish, Number in Composite Sample." Need a parameter added to EIM? Contact us online or ask your Data Coordinator.
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2. Data entry templates – valid value lookup tab

EIM has “valid value Lookup” tabs in the data entry templates. They list all EIM valid values in their respective columns. These lists are updated once monthly, so they might not contain some of the more recently added valid values, especially for taxa, parameters, and methods.

Valid value Lookup tab in the Result Template

AH		AI
1	Result Parameter Name	Result Parameter CAS Number
2	#1 Diesel	68334-30-5
3	#2 Diesel	68476-34-6
4	(+)-cis-Limonene 1,2-epoxide	4680-24-4
5	(+)-trans-Limonene 1,2-epoxide	6909-30-4
6	(+)-cis-Permethrin	61949-76-6
7	(-)-Loliolide	5989-02-6
8	(E)-Cinnamic acid	140-10-3
9	(E)-N-(2-((5-((dimethylaminomethyl) furan-2-yl)methylthio)ethyl)-N'-methyl-2-nitroethene-1,1-diamine	66357-35-5
10	(E)-Phosphamidon	297-99-4
11	(R,S)-alpha-amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid	74341-63-2
12	(S)-N-(1-carboxy-2-methylprop-1-yl)-N-pentanoyl-N-[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-bi-phenyl-4-ylmethyl]amine	137862-53-4
13	(Z)-2-Heptenal	57266-86-1
14	(Z)-14-Tricosenyl formate	77899-10-6
15	(Z)-6-Pentadecen-1-ol	
16	alpha.-Amyrin	638-95-9

Data Sheet V3.0 **Valid Value Lookup**

3. Valid value search and export

Valid value lookup lets you search and export EIM’s longer lists of valid values. These lists are always 100 percent current because they are “live.” See next section on how to use it.

Available valid value searchable lists

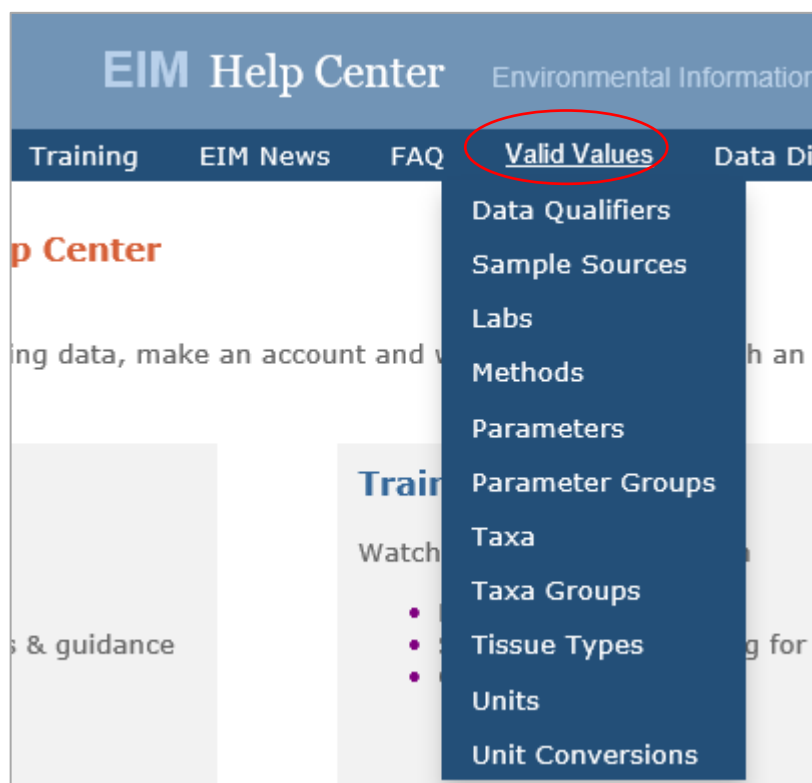
❖ Parameters	❖ Taxa	❖ Methods	❖ Units
❖ Parameter Groups	❖ Taxon Groups	❖ Data Qualifiers	❖ Unit Conversions
❖ Labs	❖ Tissue Types	❖ Sample Source	

How to use valid value search and export

1. Go to the [PUBLIC EIM Help Center](#) or [STAFF EIM Help Center](#) by clicking “Help Center” in the blue navigation bar from anywhere in EIM.



2. Click the “valid values” menu for a drop-down list and pick the list you want to look at.



3. Each valid value list contains many entries. The Method list contains almost 1700 entries. Use the search form to search for specific entries. In this example we are filtering by Method Code by typing the beginning of a Method Code. EIM searches active values by default. If you want to see inactive methods (e.g. for historical data), chose “No” under Active.

Valid Values - Methods

Category

Code
 Contains ☒ Include Alias

Description
 Contains

Source

Reference
 Contains

Active

Search Methods **Clear**

4. In the search results you will see a list of all EIM Method Codes beginning with “SW80,” along with supporting metadata like the Method Description, Reference, and Alias. Export by clicking “Export to Excel.”

Export to Excel						
Category	Code	Description	Source	Reference	Active	Alias
ANALYSIS	SW8020	Aromatic Volatile Organics by Gas Chromatography (BETX)	Ecology-MEL	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods. (Deleted from SW-846, 12/96).	Y	EPA8020
ANALYSIS	SW8080	Organochlorine Pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) by Gas Chromatography (GC)	Ecology-MEL	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods.	Y	
ANALYSIS	SW8081	Organochlorine Pesticides by Gas Chromatography (GC), Revision 0	Ecology-MEL	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods, Revision 0, September 1994.	Y	
ANALYSIS	SW8085	Pesticide Screening and Compound Independent Elemental Quantitation by GC/AED	Ecology-MEL	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods.	Y	
Analysis	SW8082	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) by Gas Chromatography (GC), Revision 0	EPA SW-846	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods.	Y	

5. The valid values are exported in CSV format. This automatically opens in Excel.* From here you can sort, filter, or save it in Excel. Only what you filtered on will be exported.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Method Code	Method Category	Method Source	Method Description	Method Reference	Method Synonym List	Active
1	SW8020	ANALYSIS	Ecology-MEL	Aromatic Volatile Organics by Gas Chromatography (BETX)	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods. (Deleted from SW-846, 12/96).	EPA8020	Y
2	SW8080	ANALYSIS	Ecology-MEL	Organochlorine Pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) by Gas Chromatography (GC)	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods.		Y
3	SW8081	ANALYSIS	Ecology-MEL	Organochlorine Pesticides by Gas Chromatography (GC), Revision 0	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods, Revision 0, September 1994.		Y
4	SW8085	ANALYSIS	Ecology-MEL	Pesticide Screening and Compound Independent Elemental Quantitation by GC/AED	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods.		Y
5	SW8082	Analysis	EPA SW-846	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) by Gas Chromatography (GC), Revision 0	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods. Revision 1, December 1996.		Y
6	SW8041	ANALYSIS	EPA SW-846	Phenols by Gas Chromatography (GC)	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods.		Y
7	SW8021B	ANALYSIS	EPA SW-846	BTEX, Aromatic and Halogenated Volatiles by GC w/Photoionization/Electrolytic Conductivity Detectors, Revision 2	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods, Revision 2, December 1996.		Y
8	SW8082M	Analysis		Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) by Gas	EPA Office of Solid Waste SW-846, Test		Y

***Note:** Sometimes Excel does undesirable things like convert specific CAS Numbers into dates. To get around this, save your original export file as a CSV and import it into Excel.

6. Here is another example of searching for valid values – this time for Parameter valid values. In this example we also chose to see only parameters in the “Chemical” category and with “benz” in the name.

Valid Values – Parameters

Name

☒ Include Alias

CAS Number

Usage

Units Type

Category

Sub Category

Active

Notice that not all the parameters in the list below have “benz” in the name. This is because the “Include Alias” box was checked, so these parameters have an alias (aka synonym) with “benz” in the name.

Name	CAS Number	Usage	Units Type	Active	Alias
1(3H)-Isobenzofuranone, 5-methyl-	54120-64-8	Lab	SUBST	Y	
1, 2-Benzisothiazol-3(2H)-one	2634-33-5	Lab	SUBST	Y	
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDD	35822-46-9	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,4,6,7,8-Heptachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, Dibenzo
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDF	67562-39-4	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,4,6,7,8-Heptachlorodibenzofuran
1,2,3,4,7,8,9-HpCDF	55673-89-7	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,4,7,8,9-Heptachlorodibenzofuran
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDD	39227-28-6	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,4,7,8-Hexachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDF	70648-26-9	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,4,7,8-Hexachlorodibenzofuran
1,2,3,4-Tetrachlorobenzene	634-66-2	Lab	SUBST	Y	
1,2,3,5-Tetrachlorobenzene	634-90-2	Lab	SUBST	Y	
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDD	57653-85-7	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,6,7,8-Hexachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDF	57117-44-9	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,6,7,8-Hexachlorodibenzofuran
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDD	19408-74-3	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,7,8,9-Hexachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDF	72918-21-9	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,7,8,9-Hexachlorodibenzofuran
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDD	40321-76-4	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,7,8-Pentachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDF	57117-41-6	Lab	SUBST	Y	1,2,3,7,8-Pentachlorodibenzofuran

What if I can't find a valid value?

If you cannot find a valid value in EIM, contact your EIM data coordinator – or [use our “Contact EIM” form to contact the EIM Team](#). We will get back to you within a day or less.

Document revision history

Revision Date	Revision No.	Summary of Changes	Reviser(s)
3/08/10	1.0	Original Document	CN
3/11/16	2.0	Added valid value info and updated reference table format via Search/Help. Renamed from “Using the Online Reference Tables.”	JK, CL, CN
11/20/17	3.0	Renamed from “Valid Values and Online Reference Tables.” Added info about new EIM Help Center. Removed table of contents (document shortened, so no longer necessary)	CN