

EIM Help – valid values

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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. |
|---|---------------|---|----------|-------|----|---|--|

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” |
|---|---------------|---|----------|-------|----|--|---------------------------|

| 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. |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|-----|--|--|

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.



- 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
 Include Alias

Description

Source

Reference

Active

- 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.”

| 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 | |

- 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 |
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