

EIM News – EIM Results Template Changes

June 28, 2023

On June 28th, we're **changing the EIM Results Template to support low-level PCB congener data**. These data need censoring (blank correction) to be used effectively.

EIM will now intake method blank data for certain low-level PCB congener data and use it to automatically calculate 1x, 3x, 5x, 8x, and 10x blank censor factors and qualify data for each sample result. The results will be downloadable via EIM Search.

See our new help document "[EIM Help – Low-Level PCB Congener Data](#)" for details.

Key Points

- We're adding 4 new columns to the Results Template.
 - QC_Blank_Type (column BI)
 - QC_Blank_Censor_Factor (column BJ)
 - Lab_Batch_ID (column BK)
 - Lab_GC_Column_ID (column BL)
- You must include the new columns in ALL EIM Results templates submitted after June 28, 2023. We recommend downloading a fresh [Results Template](#) after June 28th.
- Data batches already submitted to EIM aren't affected.
- Most submitters won't need to fill out the new columns.
- When do the new columns need to be filled out?
 - For PCB congener data analyzed by these methods:
 - EPA1668C, B, or A (Chlorinated Biphenyl Congeners in Water, Soil, Sediment, Biosolids, and Tissue by HRGC/HRMS).
 - MEL730138 v1.0 (Draft Ecology Manchester Environmental Lab method for Low-Level PCB Congeners by GCMSMS).

Other Info

- Method blank data accepted for low-level PCB congeners only: EIM won't save submitted method blank data for parameters analyzed by methods other than EPA1668C, B, A, or MEL730138 v1.0. Depending on the success of the project, we might expand to other methods and parameters in the future.
- No other blank types accepted: For now, EIM isn't taking trip, transfer, or other types of blank data.
- Uncensored data preferred: For low-level PCB congeners, we prefer to get uncensored (not yet blank-corrected) data with accompanying Method Blank data so that we can calculate results.

- BUT, EIM will take data that's already been blank-censored/corrected for any lab method (1x, 3x, 5x, 8x, 10x, or an unknown factor). Use the "QC Blank Censor Factor" field to indicate the blank-correction factor.

Study Form Help – New Field

New field in the Study form:

Field Name	Description	Requirements	Valid Values and Conditions
Recommended QC Blank Censor Factor for Study (New field, 2023-6-29)	<p>Only for certain Studies that contain low-level PCB congener data. Indicates which blank censor factor (e.g., 8x) gets used for results in the Discrete Results download file in Search.</p> <p>Background: for certain low-level PCB congener data, EIM auto-calculates results using several blank censor factors, downloadable in a separate file - only one can be displayed in the Discrete Results file.</p> <p>If you don't set this, the default results use the 5x blank censor factor.</p>	Optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1x▪ 3x▪ 5x▪ 8x▪ 10x

Results Template Help - Changes and New Columns

The following information highlights changes to the Results Template Help. See the [Results Template Help document](#) for complete template help.

Changes for Low-Level PCB Congener Data

Added “QC Blank” valid value.

Col	Field Name	Description	Requirements	Valid Values and Conditions
D	Field Collection Type	General type of data collection conducted in field. Also flags method blank data for low-level PCB congeners by EPA1668C, B, or A and MEL730138 v1.0.	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sample - discrete sample collected in the field that is sent to a lab for analysis. ▪ Measurement - discrete data collected in the field using an instrument, like pH meter. ▪ Observation - record of an unsuccessful measurement or sampling attempt. ▪ QC Blank - lab method blank data for uncorrected low-level PCB congeners by EPA1668C, B, or A and MEL730138 v1.0.

New Columns for Low-Level PCB Congener Data

These columns must be included in all Results templated submitted after June 28, 2023. Most users will not need to fill them out.

Col	Field Name	Description	Requirements	Valid Values and Conditions
BI	QC Blank Type (New field, 2023-6-29)	Type of QC blank reported. Currently, EIM accepts method blank data only for low-level PCB congener methods (EPA1668C, B, or A and MEL730138 v1.0).	Required for method blank data by EPA1668C, B, or A and MEL730138 v1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Method Blank

Col	Field Name	Description	Requirements	Valid Values and Conditions
BJ	QC Blank Censor Factor (New field, 2023-6-29)	Blank-censor indicator or factor. QC blank data are multiplied by this number to get the detection limit threshold. For uncensored low-level PCB congener data, EIM auto-calculates 1x, 3x, 5x, 8x, and 10x blank-censored results. The data are downloadable via EIM Search.	Required for uncensored low-level PCB data by EPA1668C, B, or A and MEL730138 v1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uncensored ▪ 1x ▪ 3x ▪ 5x ▪ 8x ▪ 10x ▪ Factor Unknown
BK	Lab Batch ID (New field 2023-6-29)	ID given to all environmental and QC samples analyzed in the same batch. Also known as analytical batch ID.	Required for uncensored low-level PCB data by EPA1668C, B, or A and MEL730138 v1.0	Free text
BL	Lab GC Column ID (New field, 2023-6-29)	ID of gas chromatography (GC) column used in the analysis.	Required for uncensored low-level PCB data by EPA1668C, B, or A and “MEL730138 v1.0”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPB-OCTYL ▪ DB-1 ▪ DB-1HT ▪ DB-1MS ▪ DB-5 ▪ SGE-HT8 ▪ ZB-1