



New System and Component ID Reporting Requirements for Q3 2019

The Clean Air Market Division (CAMD) has announced a change in the reporting requirements for missing data periods. This change will be reflected in the checks incorporated into the evaluation process performed by their evaluation and reporting tool, ECMPS (Emissions Collection and Monitoring Plan System). Previously, when a missing data period occurred, the system and components IDs elements of the emission EDR file was to be left blank. Now, the ECMPS tool will be looking to make sure these IDs are included during any missing data period. This change will occur with the September 11th, ECMPS release.

These changes are required for those who use continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS), and under Appendix D, including the NO_x emission rate systems (parameter codes of NOXR and methodology code of CEMS). These changes are typically impacting coal-fired units, but as mentioned above, a number of other types of systems are impacted as well. These changes do not impact those other measurement systems (Heat Input, SO₂, CO₂ or NO_x tons) using the reporting protocols for Appendices D, E, G and Low Mass Emitting (LME) systems.

When emission files are imported into ECMPS for evaluation, hundreds of checks are performed, and any discrepancies found are listed in the "Evaluation Report". The status of each error is classified as either "informational", "non-critical" or "critical". According to CAMD, initially the status assigned to these new error messages will be "informational". But down the road, CAMD plans on changing the status to "critical" for these error messages. Normally, EDR files with critical errors cannot be submitted or uploaded to the EPA's host computer system.

When CAMD releases the updates to ECMPS in September, a corresponding update to StackVision needs to be distributed and setup in those data systems impacted by these changes. These changes need to be implemented before the status of these errors become "critical". Early on, submitting emission files with "informational" status for these errors maybe a short term accepted fact of life.

After the ECMPS changes are released, ESC will need time to review again the final set of release notes and reporting instructions, along with the finalized schema released by the EPA for the EDR file. Even though ESC has already developed a corresponding update to StackVision based on "draft" information, a final review and testing will be needed before the software can be released to the general population of SV users. Investing a proper amount of time to complete this testing will prevent false errors (positive or negative) for many users.

StackVision release 6.8 will contain the software update needed to address these new reporting requirements. But as described above, the changes found in SV6.8 are not needed in every system.

The most important step is the following. If you are unsure that you will need to install the updated software and have the appropriate configuration changes, when the newest version of ECMPS is released on September 11th and you have updated your copy of ECMPS, generate an emissions file for Q3 and evaluate the file in the new ECMPS. If there are no new errors related to system and component IDs, then you are good to go. But if the new errors are there, then you will need to install SV6.8 and have the configuration updated to eliminate the “informational errors” before they become “Critical”. This is why an experienced person from ESC (Support or Engineering) needs to review your configuration and update it as necessary, if appropriate.

We do not know when CAMD will change the status of these errors from informational to critical status. ESC believes the earliest change would occur with the ECMPS update for the Q4 2019 (files submitted in January 2020). But the software and the corresponding configuration updates need to occur in your system before the change to “critical” status occurs. Our best guess is you will have about four months, or until the end of January, 2020.

If you think your system might be impacted by these changes, please begin planning with your IT department to install and implement these software changes before becoming a “critical” issue.

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