

Atmospheric Mercury Network Data Management Manual



For information about the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) contact:

NADP Program Office
Illinois State Water Survey
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2204 Griffith Drive
Champaign, Illinois 61820-7495

URL: <http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu>

e-mail: nadp@isws.illinois.edu

phone: 217-333-7871

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Abbreviations

AIRMoN	Atmospheric Integrated Research Monitoring Network
AMNet	Atmospheric Mercury Network
AMoN	Ammonia Monitoring Network
CAMD	Clean Air Markets Division
CAMNet	Canadian Atmospheric Mercury Network
CASTNET	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
CVAFS	Cold Vapor Atomic Fluorescence Spectroscopy
DFU	Dry Filter Unit
DQO	Data Quality Objective
GEM	Gaseous Elemental Mercury (expressed in ng/m ³)
GOM	Gaseous Oxidized Mercury (expressed in pg/m ³)
Hg	Mercury
MDE	Mercury Deposition Event
MDN	Mercury Deposition Network
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NED	Network Equipment Depot
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NTN	National Trends Network
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
PBM _{2.5}	Particulate-Bound Mercury less than 2.5 µm in diameter (expressed in pg/m ³)
PO	Program Office
QA	Quality Assurance
QAAG	Quality Assurance Advisory Group
QC	Quality Control
RespFctr	Response Factor
RGM	Reactive Gaseous Mercury (expressed in pg/m ³)
SAES	State Agricultural Experiment Stations
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TGM	Total Gaseous Mercury (expressed in ng/m ³)
UHP	Ultra-High Purity
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Units and Conversion Factors

°	degrees
°C	degrees Celcius
cm	centimeters
L	liters
lpm	liters per minute
mm	millimeters (1 mm = 10 ⁻³

Document Change History

Version	Description	Effective Date
1.10	Requirement for 2 year update of site sketch (Table 1) removed. URL for uploading data files corrected (pg 8), Units updated in Table 3 to include 2537X model, Descriptions corrected for data flags A1 and A2 in Table 4, Description updated for data flag R1 in Table 4, D2, E2, G3, and P3 data flags added to Table 4	10/2016
1.9	QR Codes added to Tables 4 and 5	11/2015
1.8	Initial document	12/2011

Introduction

This document, the *NADP AMNet Data Management Manual*, details the data practices within the Atmospheric Mercury Network (AMNet). It considers what data is captured, how that data is processed and stored, where the data will be made available, and when the data will be available. These processes ensure consistent data operations across the network and over time, and help ensure that the data quality objectives (DQOs) of the network are met.

Network Data

Table 1 lists the types of data products that are collected for use in the network, the frequency with which these products are collected and/or updated, and the individual(s) responsible for the data product. All data products will be maintained indefinitely at the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) Program Office (PO).

Table 1. AMNet Data Products.

Data Product	Frequency	Responsible Party
Tekran instrument data, raw data	Collect: 5 minute averages Submit to PO: monthly	Site Operator
Tekran data, processed and quality-assured	Process: 60 minute, or 120 minute averages, based on instrument cycle Post: within 6 months of data submission	NADP Program Office

Data and Site Report Submission

Tekran instrument raw data files and the completed Site Reports should be uploaded to the NADP PO via the following URL: <http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu/upload/amnet>. As indicated in Table 1, instrument data should be submitted monthly. Completed Site Reports should be

The majority of PBM_{2.5} and GOM that were captured during the 2 hour sampling period is expected to be released (and measured) during cycles E and H, respectively. Values for cycles F, G, I, and J are expected to be much smaller by comparison, and in many cases will be 0 pg/m³. Cycle(C) is also expected to have a value of 0 pg/m³. It measures the concentration of mercury in the final system flush prior to measurement of PBM_{2.5} and GOM. As indicated in Table 2, Cycle(E) and Cycle(H) are measured using different cartridges. Again, evaluation of cartridge bias is necessary as part of data validation.

Table 3. Column Headers Used With Tekran 2537A/B/X Output Data.

Column Header	Meaning	Units		Value
		A/B	X	
Date	start date of the measurement			YY:DD:MM
Time	start time of the measurement			HH:MM:SS (24-hr clock)
Typ	mode of operation			CLN, CONT, SPAN, ZERO
C	channel			A or B
Stat*	instrument status			M#, M#F, NP, NPF, OK, OKF, OL, OLF
AdTim	sampling time	seconds	seconds	
Vol	sample volume			
Bl	baseline voltage	volts	millivolts	
BlDev	standard deviation of the baseline voltage	volts	millivolts	
MaxV	peak voltage	volts	millivolts	
Area	area under the curve recorded by CVAFS an7(by)008 is			

Data Validation

As indicated in Figure 2, validation of the Tekran instrument raw data is a three-step process. This process includes:

1. automated quality assurance (QA) checks,
2. manual inspection by the AMNet Site Liaison, and
3. approval by the Site Operator and/or Site Supervisor at each site



Figure 2. AMNet Quality Assurance and Data Flow Process.

Upon receipt at the NADP PO, the raw data files from the Tekran 2537 are imported into the AMNet SQL Server database. As part of the data import, quality assurance screening criteria are applied to the data. Validation flags are assigned to qualify data from the Tekran instrumentation. The flags used to validate the data are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. AMNet Data Flags Assigned by Quality Assurance Screening Criteria.

Data Flag*	Description	Mercury Species	QR Code	
null	Data meets criteria used in the automated scripts	All	A	
E1	GEM < 1.00 ng/m ³ for same cartridge	GEM		
G0	GOM = 0 pg/m ³ for more than 24 hours	GOM		
P0	PBM _{2.5} = 0 pg/m ³ for more than 24 hours	PBM _{2.5}		
A1	$\frac{\text{median}}{\text{median}} \frac{\text{median}}{\text{median}} / 2 \quad 0.10V$ for <u>each</u> day**	GEM	B	
B1	Baseline voltage < 0.05V, or Baseline voltage > 0.25V	All		
B2	Baseline voltage _i – Baseline voltage _{i+1} > 0.01V			
B3	Baseline deviation > 0.10V for 5 consecutive readings			
C0	(Calibration _i – Calibration _{i+1}) / Calibration _i > 0.10			
C1	(Calibration cartridge bias _i – Calibration cartridge bias _{i+1}) / Calibration cartridge bias _i > 0.10			
C5	(Calibration _i – Calibration _{i+1}) / Calibration _i > 0.05			
D2	Sampling Period 60, 120, or 180 minutes Sampling Period _{Start} unknown or unexpected Sampling Period _{End} unknown or unexpected			
E2	GOM = -9 (missing or unable to calculate) PBM _{2.5} = -9 (missing or unable to calculate)			GOM PBM _{2.5}
E5	(GEM _i – GEM _{i+1}) / GEM _i > 0.50 for same cartridge			GEM
F1	72 hours < Time between calibrations < 144 hours			All
G1	Cycle(H) < 0.70 x GOM, or Cycle(I) > 0.20 x GOM, or Cycle(J) > 0.10 x GOM			GOM
G2	GOM < 0 pg/m ³			
G3	N _{GOM} 3			
L1	GEM cycles < 24 before desorption		GOM PBM _{2.5}	
M2	Status = M2 (multiple peaks)	All		
OL	Status = OL (overload)			

Table 4 - continued. AMNet Data Flags Assigned by Quality Assurance Screening Criteria.

Data Flag*	Description	Mercury Species	QR Code
P1	Cycle(E) < 0.70 x PBM _{2.5} , or Cycle(F) > 0.20 x PBM _{2.5} , or Cycle(G) > 0.10 x PBM _{2.5}	PBM _{2.5}	B
P2	PBM _{2.5} < 0 pg/m ³		
P3	N _{PBM2.5} 3		
R1	RespFctr < 6x10 ⁶ units	All	
S0	Cycle(C) > 1.67 pg/m ³	GOM PBM _{2.5}	
V5	$(\text{Volume}_{\text{measured}} - \text{Volume}_{\text{expected}}) / \text{Volume}_{\text{expected}}$ > 0.05	All	
Z1	Zero > 1500 Peak Area units		

A2 $\frac{\frac{\text{median}}{\text{median}} - \frac{\text{median}}{\text{median}}}{/2}$ 0.15V GEM
for each day**

C

the case of the latter configuration, the operating cycle and the associated averages would not align with the hour. This difference in instrument configuration is important with regard to unattended start-up following a power outage. For instance, GEM has an averaging period of 60 minutes. If the instrument loses power and restarts 15 minutes after the hour, then the corresponding average will also start 15 minutes after the hour. PBM_{2.5} and GOM have a sampling period of 120 minutes. Sample collection for PBM_{2.5} and GOM will start at the same time as the first GEM measurement. As such, average concentrations for PBM_{2.5} and GOM will also start 15 minutes after the hour. With instruments configured to start operation at the next 5 minute interval the timestamps contained in both the 60-minute and the 120-minute average archives can vary, depending on when the instrument was started.

To determine an average value for GEM, more than half the total records for the averaging period must be valid. For instance, there are 12 possible records for GEM during the 60-minute cycle. At least 7 of these records must be valid to generate an average. If no average is generated for GEM, then values for GOM and PBM_{2.5} for the same period will be considered invalid.

At the request of the Site Operator and/or Site Supervisor data for the site may be sequestered for up to 12 months. Sequestered data will be made available on the NADP AMNet website within a year of its submission.

Raw, instrument data is not available from the NADP AMNet website. That data is available solely from the Site Operator and/or Site Supervisor for a site, at their discretion.

accuracy – the closeness of agreement between the result of a measurement and its true value.

ANSI/ASQC E4-2004 – “Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs.”

assessment – the evaluation process to measure the performance or effectiveness of a system and its elements; this all-inclusive term denotes evaluations, audits, or reviews.

atmospheric deposition – removal of particles and gases from the atmosphere via fallout or precipitation.

audit – a systematic and independent examination to determine whether practices comply with documented **QAPs** and **SOPs**, and that these practices are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve stated objectives.

bias – systematic or persistent distortion of a measurement process that causes errors in one direction.

chemisorption – chemical adsorption. Adsorption at an exposed surface with the adsorbate surface undergoing a chemical change. That is, a new chemical species results at the surface.

comparability – a measure of the confidence with which one data set can be compared to

Gaseous Elemental Mercury (GEM) – gas phase mercury in its ground electronic state with the chemical formula Hg^0 . It is a mono-atomic gas.

Gaseous Oxidized Mercury (GOM) – oxidized gas phase compounds of mercury. It is sometimes called reactive gaseous mercury (RGM). GOM is believed to be the more accurate term as the term “reactive” can be misleading and imprecise.

metadata – data and other information about another related data set (e.g., instrument maintenance logs as metadata for direct instrument readings).

method detection limit (MDL) – the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero. It is based on protocols in 40CFR Appendix B to part 136.

PBM_{2.5} – mercury that is bound to particles of mean aerosol diameter less than or equal to 2.5 μm . Mercury is bound to the particle by means of physiosorption, chemisorption, or entrainment during aerosol production.

peer review – a critical review of a specific scientific and/or technical product to corroborate scientific defensibility, which may include an in-depth assessment of assumptions, calculations, extrapolations, alternative interpretations, methodology, acceptance criteria, and conclusions pertaining to the specific scientific and/or technical products and of the supporting documentation.

performance evaluation – a quantitative test to determine whether a measurement system can obtain results that meet tolerance limits.

physioadsorption - physical adsorption. Adsorption at an exposed surface with the adsorbate surface remaining intact. No chemical reaction takes place.

precision – a measure of mutual agreement among individual measurements of the same property, usually under prescribed similar conditions, expressed generally in terms of the standard deviation.

Quality Assurance (QA) – an integrated system of management activities involving planning, implementation, documentation, assessment, reporting, and quality improvement to ensure that a process, item, or service is of the necessary type and quality expected by the client; generally implemented before an activity has occurred.

Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) – a formal document describing in comprehensive detail the necessary QA, QC, and other technical activities that must be implemented to ensure that the results of the work performed will satisfy stated performance criteria.

Quality Control (QC) – the overall system of technical activities to measure the attributes and performance of a process, item, or service against defined standards to verify that they meet the stated requirements established by the customer; operational techniques and activities that are used to fulfill requirements for quality; generally implemented while activities are being performed.

quality improvement – a management program to improve the quality of operations using a formal mechanism to encourage worker recommendations, timely management evaluation, and feedback or implementation.

Quality Management Plan (QMP) – a document that describes the quality system in terms of the organizational structure, functional responsibilities of management and staff, lines of authority, and required interfaces for those planning, implementing, and assessing all activities conducted.

Quality Management System (QMS) – the overall management system of the organization that determines and implements the quality policy. Includes strategic planning, allocation of resources, and other systematic activities (e.g., planning, implementation, documentation, and assessment) pertaining to the quality system.

record – a completed document that provides objective evidence of an item or process. Records may include photographs, drawings, magnetic tape, and other data recording media.

representativeness – a measure of the degree to which data accurately and precisely represent the characteristic of a population, parameter variations at a sampling point, a process condition, or an environmental condition.

Reactive Gaseous Mercury (RGM) – see **gaseous oxidized mercury**.

specifications – a document stating requirements and that refers to or includes drawings or other relevant documents. They should indicate the means and criteria for determining conformance.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – a written document that details the method for an operation, analysis, or action with thoroughly prescribed techniques and steps. The officially approved method for performing certain routine or repetitive tasks.

Statement of Work (SOW) – a written document detailing the procedures and deliverables required to meet contract obligations.

wet deposition – removal of particles and gases from the atmosphere via precipitation.

Appendix B: References

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