

PAMSGRAM

PLEASE DELIVER TO ALL RECIPIENTS IN YOUR OFFICE

Volume 3
October 28, 1996

The PAMSGRAM is a FAXED notice for State and Local air pollution control agencies which highlights issues meriting attention by the PAMS monitoring staff.

This issue of the **PAMSGRAM** is devoted to several diverse issues; some are reminders of previous guidance:

ISSUE #1 - Local Time v. Standard Time - Sampling should be conducted in accordance with the schedule appearing in **40 CFR 58** on **local time**, however, the data should be reported to the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) in **local standard time**. For example:

If a three-hour sample was taken during June from 1500 to 1800 (local time = local daylight time), then the sample would be reported to AIRS as a three-hour sample with a start time of 1400 (local standard time). Additionally, if a 3-hour sample was taken from 0000 (midnight local time = local daylight time) to 0300 on June 3, then the sample would be reported to AIRS as a three-hour sample with a start time of 2300 (local standard time) on June 2. This convention would apply to all sample intervals less than 24 hours, e.g., 1-hour, 3-hour, 6-hour samples, etc.

Conversely, as an exception for practical purposes, sampling intervals of 24 hours or more should be reported on the day in which the bulk of the monitoring occurred. Therefore, a 24-hour sample taken from midnight (0000) to midnight (2400) local daylight time on June 3, would then be reported with a start time of 0000 on June 3 (23 of 24 sampled hours were on June 2) rather than being reported at 2300 on June 2 .

Current data in AIRS seem often to be inconsistent with this convention (see the **AIRS User's Guide**, Volume AQ2).

ISSUE #2 - National Sampling Schedule - Data in AIRS indicate that not all intermittent monitoring is conducted on the national sampling days. Note that for consistency, once-every-sixth-day sampling should occur according to the attached schedule. For "every-third-day" monitoring, every other monitoring day should fall on a scheduled day. Please check your sampling schedule for the remainder of 1996 and for 1997 to ensure that it includes collocated 24-hour VOC and carbonyl samples every 6th day year-round at the #2 Sites; if your schedule is not part of an approved alternative, these samples should be part of your sampling plan. National data completeness on these particular samples was quite low at last check.

ISSUE #3 - Calibration Procedures - At any particular hour during a PAMS monitoring day, some of the 56 target VOCs are at their peak. It is probably prudent, therefore, to rotate the PAMS calibration procedures through different hours so that your agency does not consistently lose the same hourly data point. AIRS indicates that some agencies have lost two consecutive hours of data, whereas most agencies are able to complete the calibration procedures in one hour.

ISSUE #4 - Reporting Low Values - As a general rule, data for all 56 PAMS VOC Target Compounds (ref. the **Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Implementation Manual**, Appendix N, Table 2-1, as revised October 20, 1994) should be reported to AIRS. Quantifiable VOC data which are below the detection limits should be entered as the quantified value. These values will be retained within AIRS, but when any summary statistics are generated, the system will automatically replace values below the detection limits with a value that is one-half the detection limit prior to performing calculations. Raw data listings will maintain the actual values. If the compound response is below the detection limit and the data are not quantifiable, a sample value of zero should be reported to AIRS. This will indicate to AIRS that the compound of interest was analyzed for, but not present at any quantifiable level. If a sample is missed or invalidated for any reason, appropriate null values or validity flags are used. A review of AIRS data seems to indicate that, in many instances, blank values are being entered instead of zeros or small quantifiable values.

ISSUE #5 - Minimum Detectable Limit Values - Minimum Detectable Limit Values in AIRS may be specified for each of the PAMS target compounds by the reporting agency. If no specific value is enumerated by the reporting agency, AIRS will utilize a default value defined in the Geo-Common File for the parameter, generally 0.1 ppbC.

ISSUE #6 - Eight- Parameter Surface Meteorological Monitoring Site - Reference Table 6-1 of the **Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Implementation Manual**, Appendix N, indicates that one site in each network should be considered primary for surface meteorology and should collect eight meteorological parameters. All other sites are required to monitor four variables: wind direction, wind speed, air temperature, and humidity (or dew point). The primary site should additionally collect data for solar radiation, ultraviolet radiation, barometric pressure, and precipitation.

ISSUE #7 - Meteorological Monitoring Guidance - EPA has received several queries concerning quality assurance for upper air meteorological measurements. An updated version of Volume IV of the **Quality Assurance Handbook**, which includes procedures for remote sensing devices, is now available from the Office of Research and Development, Center for Environmental Research Information (CERI). Copies may be obtained by calling (513) 569-7562 and requesting document EPA/600/R-94/038d.

Questions regarding this document should be referred to the PAMS Contact in the appropriate EPA Regional Office.