### DataPump Import (IMPDP) Throws Errors ORA-31693 ORA-936 On An Existing Table (Doc ID 405206.1)

**In this Document**

## APPLIES TO:

Oracle Database - Enterprise Edition - Version 10.2.0.1 to 10.2.0.4 [Release 10.2]
Oracle Database Cloud Schema Service - Version N/A and later
Oracle Database Exadata Cloud Machine - Version N/A and later
Oracle Database Exadata Express Cloud Service - Version N/A and later
Oracle Cloud Infrastructure - Database Service - Version N/A and later
Information in this document applies to any platform.

## SYMPTOMS

You try to import using DataPump Utility impdp and the job throws the following errors on already existing tables in the target database:

```
ORA-31693: Table data object "<OWNER>"."<TABLE NAME>" failed to load/unload and is being skipped due to error:
ORA-00936: missing expression
```

The Import Data Pump job will fail if:

1. The table has a LONG column (i.e.: the EXTERNAL TABLE access method cannot be used)

and:

2. The table has a unique index and import Data Pump is done with:

```
CONTENT=DATA_ONLY TABLE_EXISTS_ACTION=TRUNCATE
```

(or APPEND, if the table was truncated manually before the import Data Pump started). This means that DIRECT PATH access method cannot be used either.

## CAUSE

This is a restriction in Data Pump. The wrong error message is handled in:

Bug 5598437 DATAPUMP COULD ERROR WITH ORA-936 (MISSING EXPRESSION) INSTEAD OF ORA-31696

fixed in 11g (where a new error message will be raised).

## SOLUTION

You can use any of the following to workaround:

1. Migrate the LONG columns to CLOB.

Or:

2. Prior to import, drop the unique index(es) on the tables that contain LONG columns and recreate them once the import finished.

Or:

3. Re-create the table upon import (old data in table will be lost):

Instead of

```
impdp ... content=data_only table_exists_action=append/truncate
```

use:

```
impdp ... table_exists_action=replace
```

## REFERENCES

BUG:5598437 - DATAPUMP COULD ERROR WITH ORA-936 INSTEAD OF ORA-31696
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