

## 10.2 How does EPA evaluate the electronic reports?

The ECMPS Client Tool checks the data thoroughly and provides instant feedback to the user, so that errors can be discovered and corrected before an official submittal is made. This pre-screening process results in the vast majority of the official submittals receiving “clean” feedback reports that indicate “No errors”. No EPA follow-up action is needed for these submittals.

However, correction of all errors prior to making an official submittal, though strongly encouraged, is not mandatory. Sometimes there is insufficient time to correct all known errors prior but one of two basic types of messages (or perhaps both) will appear in the feedback report:

- “Non-critical” (informational) messages, which flag relatively minor data quality issues. If only informational messages are received, the data are marginally acceptable and are transferred to the official EPA database. Resubmission is not required, but the messages should be addressed in subsequent submittals; and
- “Critical” error messages, which indicate the presence of serious errors that prevent the data from being used for allowance accounting and dissemination. When an official submittal contains a critical error, the data are not transferred to the EPA database until the critical error has been resolved by an EPA analyst working together with the affected source.

In most cases, once the cause of a critical error has been identified and the solution found, a corrected report is resubmitted, generally within 30 days after the close of the submission period. Note, however, that occasionally circumstances may arise which prevent a critical error from being fixed. For instance, a source may have received EPA approval of a petition for a minor variation from Part 75.

In such cases, the EPA analyst will manually override the critical error to allow the data to be transferred to the official database, and resubmission of the report is not required.