

Question 14.2

Topic: Certification Test, QA Test, or Audit Failures and CEMS Disapprovals

Question: Please explain the data validation and reporting rules that apply to the following circumstances:

- (1) If a CEMS does not pass its required certification tests by the applicable deadline in § 75.4;
- (2) If the Administrator issues a notice of disapproval of a CEMS within the 120-day review period;
- (3) If a CEMS fails a required daily, quarterly, semiannual or annual quality-assurance (QA) test; or
- (4) If a certified CEMS fails an EPA audit.

Answer: (1) and (2) In order for data from a monitor to be considered valid, a monitoring system must be certified in accordance with the provisions in § 75.20. If a CEM system does not pass the certification tests by the applicable deadline in § 75.4, or if the Administrator issues a notice of disapproval of the CEMS within the 120-day review period, data from the CEMS are considered invalid, and the owner or operator must report (as applicable) the maximum potential concentration for SO₂, NO_x and CO₂, and/or the maximum potential NO_x emission rate, and/or the maximum potential flow rate, until the CEMS is certified (i.e., unless quality-assured data from a certified backup monitor or reference method are available to be reported in the interim). In the former case, begin reporting maximum potential values when the allotted window of time in § 75.4 to complete the certification tests expires.

In the latter case, follow the procedures for loss of certification in § 75.20 (a)(5). These procedures require maximum potential values to be reported retrospectively, back to the date and hour of provisional certification.

(3) Whenever a required daily, quarterly, semiannual, or annual quality assurance test is failed, the CEMS is considered to be out of control, as of the date and hour of the failed test. In such cases, apply the applicable data validation rules in Appendix B of Part 75.

Specifically, follow the procedures in Sections 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 for daily QA assessments, Section 2.2.3 for quarterly assessments and Section 2.3.2 for semiannual and annual assessments.

(4) In addition to the circumstances described above, EPA can issue a certification disapproval notice after the 120-day certification application review period if an audit of a system or the certification application reveals that a monitor does not meet the Part 75 performance requirements, and should not have been certified. In

these circumstances, the owner or operator must follow the loss of certification procedures in § 75.20(a)(5).

References: § 75.24, § 75.20 (a)(5), Appendix B, Sections 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.2.3 and 2.3.2

History: First published in Original March 1993 Policy Manual; revised in October 1999 Revised Manual; revised in October 2003 Revised Manual