



# Air Resources Board



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To PQAO Contacts:

The Corrective Action Notification (CAN) process is used to document, investigate, correct, and reduce the recurrence of air monitoring issues that could potentially impact data quality within the Air Resources Board's (ARB) Primary Quality Assurance Organization (PQAO). Any person within ARB or a local monitoring organization within a PQAO, may initiate the CAN process when an issue is identified.

In 2014, a total of 90 CANs were initiated. Of those, 28 resulted in the flagging and/or invalidation of data. This included fourteen CANs that were initiated for data generated during calibrations and precision checks that was inadvertently reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Air Quality System (AQS) as ambient data. Also, the corruption of data storage and logging software resulted in multiple months of invalidated particulate matter (PM) and ozone data. Other issues resulting in the invalidation of data included failed leak checks and data needing to be flagged as an exceptional event.

Overall, CANs were initiated for a wide range of issues. The most common issues included:

- Anomalous trends, patterns, and/or values observed in data. (28)
- Outdated or incorrect metadata information in the U.S. EPA's AQS database. (20)
- Missing or unavailable leak check, flow rate verification check (flow check), calibration, and/or certification documentation at the time of an ARB audit. (7)
- Instrument leak checks, flow checks, calibrations, and/or certifications not being performed at the required frequency. (6)
- Siting or residence time requirements not being met. (6)
- Instrument leak and flow checks not meeting criteria limits. (4)

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

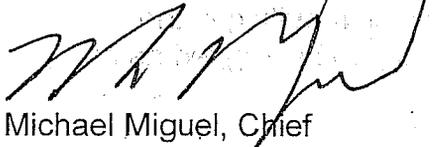
Anomalous trends, patterns, and/or data typically revolved around unusually high values. The fourteen CANs that resulted in the invalidation of readings taken during calibrations or precision checks highlight the need to improve data review practices. Outdated or incorrect metadata were a result of new or closed monitors that had not been added or updated correctly in the U.S. EPA's AQS database. Overall, the review did not identify any systematic issues that impacted a specific instrument, pollutant, or agency, but did highlight the need to review QA/QC requirements and documentation and data review practices.

Anomalous data, outdated or incorrect metadata, and quality control checks not being documented or performed at the required frequency were also common issues previously highlighted in the 2013 CAN report. ARB will continue to work with air monitoring agencies to prevent the recurrence of these issues.

ARB and air monitoring organizations utilizing the CAN process should continue to report operational problems, instrument malfunctions, and/or any items needing corrective action or investigation and resolve these issues in a timely manner.

If you have any questions regarding specific CANs or suggestions regarding the CAN process, please contact Mr. Patrick Rainey at (916) 327-4756, or by email at [patrick.rainey@arb.ca.gov](mailto:patrick.rainey@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



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