

# Region III Data Validation Guidelines

## Overview

Data validation is necessary to ensure that only data of known and documented quality are used in making environmental decisions. As such, this guidance serves as a standard operating procedure that documents our Region's commitment to using only scientifically defensible data in environmental decision-making, it documents compliance with Headquarters' directives and guidance, and it ensures that data generated by or for the region are evaluated consistently

The Region III data validation procedures consist of modifications to the National Functional Guidelines and were written by QA Staff to formalize procedures that are specific to Region III. The following is a list of documents pertaining to Region III Data validation procedures.

- Innovative Approaches to Data Validation (June 1995)
- Region III Data Validation Policy (pdf)
- Region III Modifications to National Functional Guidelines for Organic Data Review Multi-Media, Multi-Concentration (September 1994)
- Region III Modifications to National Functional Guidelines for Inorganic Data Review Multi-Media, Multi-Concentration (April 1993)
- Dioxin Data Validation Guidelines (January 1996)

The Region III Innovative Approaches to Data Validation is a guidance document that provides step-by-step instructions to manually validate organic and inorganic data using various levels of review. The Innovative Approaches to Data Validation include five levels of data validation (M1, M2, M3, IM1 and IM2). Determining the appropriate level of review is contingent on the data use. The document provides some guidance on the selection of the appropriate level. Should the intended data use dictate review by the M3 or IM2 level (full validation) refer to the most recent version of the Region III Modifications to the National Functional Guidelines. All procedures require full CLP or CLP-equivalent data package deliverables. Although the Innovative Approaches to Data Validation and Region III Modifications are intended for implementation for all CLP data acquired for use within Region III, these guidance documents may be adapted for use with other similar methods.

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