



January 31, 2011

TO THE AFS REPORTING COMMUNITY:

The first Federal Register (FR) announcement for the renewal of the Air Facility System (AFS) Information Collection Request (ICR) was published on January 18, 2011.

EPA-HQ-OECA-2010-0777; FRL9253-9; EPA ICR No. 0107.10; OMB Control No. 2096-0096, Air Stationary Source Compliance and Enforcement Information, is available on www.regulations.gov for review. Comments must be submitted **on or before March 21, 2011**.

Any questions concerning the ICR announcement can be sent to Betsy Metcalf at Metcalf.betsy@epa.gov or Lauren Jones at jones.laurenw@epa.gov. Additionally, the AFS National Webinar scheduled for February 23, 2011 will be dedicated to answering your questions about the ICR renewal.

In April 2011, a second FR notice will be printed that contains the detailed supporting statement for the collection, totaling time and resources needed to report to AFS.

Suggested changes to the collection in this ICR:

1. Use of the North American Industrial Code System (NAICS) codes versus the Standard Industrial Codes (SIC).
2. Changes for Nonattainment Indicators from current values of moderate, extreme and serious to one of three values: A=Attainment, N=Nonattainment, and U=Unclassified.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) concerning this ICR:

Q. I don't know all of the NAICS codes for my facilities without looking them up one-by-one. Does EPA expect me to do this?

A. Many NAICS codes are already populated in AFS. EPA does not expect any agency to immediately populate all NAICS codes, but is expecting users to gradually populate these fields over a two-year (through FY2013) period. Fields can be populated in several different ways:

1. An agency can request assistance from the AFS Help Line in populating missing NAICS codes. Codes will be populated through the assistance of the Federal Registry System (FRS), using NAICS codes populated for the Air National Emission Inventory or other reporting media data. Note: If FRS' only media record for a source is AFS, then there will be no FRS data to reference.
2. Agencies can generate their own listing of sources with NAICS codes, and submit them to the AFS Help Line for conversion to AFS format and application to the database.
3. Agencies can enter the NAICS codes when reviewing data at a plant, such as the time a Full Compliance Evaluation is entered.

Q. Can't EPA complete a conversion of SIC-to-NAICS codes?

A. Unfortunately, no. There is not a one-for-one relationship between SIC and NAICS codes. In 2009, we did complete a conversion for those SIC codes that had unique NAICS codes, but not all data in AFS was converted.

Q. Why is a change in Nonattainment Indicators necessary?

A. Over the last few years there has been a change in the way the Office of Air and Radiation has categorized attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). AFS was able to create tables that reflected the values for pollutants such as moderate, extreme, serious. Due to changes in measuring different values for monitoring air quality, multiple values are now possible. There are measurements for Ozone 1- and 8-Hour Standards and Particulate Matter 2.5 1997 and 2006 Standards that cannot currently be maintained in AFS without adding new transactions. These new transactions would require additional programming and resource output from all reporting partners. As AFS is moving toward system modernization, EPA feels that the AFS reporting community is better served to simplify reporting at this time, and then build a process in a new system that would be able to use geospatial data to identify areas of nonattainment, versus requiring data entry. To make AFS data accurate and still usable until modernization occurs, the simplified data requirement will ensure that areas of nonattainment are identified without expensive programming changes.

Q. Sometimes AFS prompts me for a Nonattainment Indicator when I am reporting data, and sometimes not. Why is that?

A. AFS requires a Nonattainment Indicator on criteria pollutants only. Ozone (or VOC), particulate matter (PM10 or PM2.5), lead, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide pollutants will require entry of a Nonattainment Indicator.

Q. Will there be assistance provided for changing the Nonattainment Indicators in AFS?

A. Yes, if requested. Actually, the process will be simple. Historic data in AFS will not be changed. Starting in FY2012, only certain values in the Nonattainment Indicator table will be valid. Any others will not be allowed for entry (A=Attainment, N=Nonattainment, and U=Unclassified). Error messages will be received if obsolete values are used.