

EPA IR Category 5A to 5R Transition Fact Sheet

Version: 9/11/2023

Purpose: This document discusses the transition from EPA IR Category 5A to 5R, and when it applies. It also discusses steps needed for ATTAINS to calculate as EPA IR Category 5R. This document also addresses some common concerns regarding the transition.

Audience: This document is for state Assessment Administrators. Users need State Assessment Data Entry or Administrator privileges.

When to Use EPA IR Category 5A versus 5R

EPA IR Category 5A (or 5-Alt) refers to an Assessment/Parameter combination that has been addressed in an “Alternative Restoration Approach” type Action. It is a subset of EPA Category 5 since it is still on the CWA Section 303(d) list because it still needs a TMDL.

In the 2024 IR Memo, EPA renamed the “Alternative Restoration Approach” Action type to “Advance Restoration Plan (ARP)” (a plan that may be developed in advance of a TMDL). EPA also renamed EPA IR Category 5A to 5R.

Corresponding Changes in ATTAINS

1. **Action Types:** The Action Type for all existing “Alternative Restoration Approach” Actions will automatically change to “Advance Restoration Plan (ARP)” starting with ATTAINS Release 1.1.04. Any newly created Alternative/ARP Actions will need to use the new “Advance Restoration Plan (ARP)” Action type starting with ATTAINS Release 1.1.04.
2. **EPA IR Category:** For the 2024 Assessment Cycle and newer, ATTAINS will calculate Assessment/Parameter combinations that are associated with an “Advance Restoration Plan (ARP)” as Category 5R. (It will remain EPA IR Category 5A for the 2022 cycle or older, even if that cycle is submitted after ATTAINS Release 1.1.04 is deployed.)
 - a. For the 2024 Assessment Cycle (or newer), ATTAINS will pull forward any existing EPA IR Category 5A waters. **The Organization (state/territory/tribe) will need to trigger validation rules** to force ATTAINS to recalculate EPA IR Category to EPA IR Category 5R. The instructions are provided below.

Note About Organization IR Categories

Organization IR Category will not be automatically updated. Organization IR Category (whether at the overall Assessment level, Use level, or Parameter level) is a static label uploaded by the Organization (state/territory/tribe) as part of their Assessment uploads. Those will NOT be automatically updated. The Organization will need to update those labels in their Assessment uploads if they wish for the Organization IR Category to correspond with the new EPA IR Category 5R.

How to Update EPA IR Category for 2024 Cycle or Later

EPA IR Category is a calculated field (not an uploaded field) that updates when validations are run. The instructions for how to trigger a recalculation are different depending upon whether you use the ATTAINS User

Interface (i.e., forms or Batch Upload), or whether you upload through the Exchange Network/CDX node using the ATTAINS schema data flow.

For ATTAINS User Interface

ATTAINS pulls forward existing Assessments. It does not run validations unless something is edited in the Assessment. So, it will pull forward and retain any EPA IR Category 5A calculations until something is edited on that Assessment. When it runs validations for the edit, it should change the calculation to EPA IR Category 5R if the Assessment Cycle is 2024 or newer. The easiest way to trigger validations for a group of Assessments is to use Batch Upload. Note: The Batch Upload process will update the Last Modified date for the corresponding subset of waters.

1. Go to the Assessments tab.
2. In the “Multi-IR Category” column, enter “5A” in the filter. This should provide a list of Assessments that use Category 5A somewhere in the Assessment.
3. If there are any corresponding records, go to the Menu button and choose “**Export Filtered Assessments**”. Tell it where to save the zipfile.
4. Navigate to where the zipfile was saved. Extract the files from the zipfile. You will need the **Parameters.csv** file.
 - a. Note: You do not need to edit the exported file (unless you also want to update the corresponding Organization IR Category labels). Simply using the Batch Upload will trigger the validations, which will recalculate the EPA IR Category.
5. In ATTAINS, go to the Assessments module, then go to Menu button, and choose “**Upload Assessments**”.
6. Choose the **Update** option.
7. Select the **Parameters.csv** file (or corresponding edited version if applicable), and then upload it.
8. Check that the file passed the Batch Upload validations, and then Proceed and Save.
9. Go back into the Assessments module and verify that the previous EPA IR Category 5A values have changed to EPA IR Category 5R. (You can verify by filtering the “Multi-IR Category” column for “5A”. This time there should not be any records. You can also filter the “Multi-IR Category” column for “5R” to see that you now have 5R waters. Or, you can open individual records that were previously calculated as “5A” to verify it changed the EPA IR Category calculations inside the record.)

You should only have to do this process once—for the first Assessment Cycle that is the 2024 Cycle or newer. For subsequent Cycles, it should retain the EPA IR Category 5R calculation.

For Exchange Network Users

When Exchange Network states upload data through the Exchange Network/Central Data Exchange (CDX) node, that automatically triggers ATTAINS validations. So, it should automatically calculate as EPA IR Category 5R for the 2024 cycle (or newer) if the Assessment/Parameter combination has an Associated Action where Action Type is “Advance Restoration Plan (ARP)”.