

5. DATA MANAGEMENT

Data management encompasses the entire process of collecting, quality assuring, reporting, archiving, analyzing and distributing the measurement data *and their supporting metadata*. While the measurement values are of interest to the data user community, the supporting metadata play an important role in establishing a level of confidence in the measurements. Whenever deviations occur from accepted field or laboratory protocols, or compromising events affect samples, the information must be reported and archived. This chapter describes all aspects of data management for the GAW Precipitation Chemistry Programme, including the required formats for data submission to the WMO Quality Assurance - Science Activity Centre for the Americas. Mandatory participation in the WMO GAW laboratory intercomparison programme is described.

Section 5 (Data Management) and Appendix F are being re-written. Please contact Van Bowersox (manager@qasac-americas.org) for further information or questions about data submission to the World Data Centre for Precipitation Chemistry or the Quality Assurance -- Science Activity Centre.