



Frequently Asked Questions

Vector Data Validation Tool

EOI/EFSA/2022/01 – CT 42 BIOHAW

Prepared for EFSA

By EpiMundi

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1 About EpiMundi

EpiMundi is an independent epidemiology research and consulting company, registered in France.

It was established as **Ausvet Europe**, part of the Ausvet Group in 2019. EpiMundi is now owned and led by its President, Dr Angus Cameron, who was the first partner at the founding of Ausvet in Australia in 1998.

Ausvet Europe was renamed as EpiMundi in August 2024 to better reflect the work of the company – providing epidemiological expertise across animal, human and plant health around the globe.



Our mission

In response to the growing challenges facing the planet, we are driven to make a significant positive impact on the health and welfare of animals and humans throughout the world by providing inspired, pragmatic, people-centred and evidence-based expertise in epidemiology.

Disclaimer

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1 Data Providers (Entomologists)

How do I get a template with only the columns and countries I need?

Click the "Request a Customised Spreadsheet Template" link in the footer of any email from the system. This opens a form where you can select specific countries, vector groups, and optional columns.

If you don't already have an email from the system, send an email with a blank spreadsheet attached to vector.validation@efsa.epimundi.com

How do I submit my data for validation?

Complete your data entry in the **1.DATA INPUT-Ticks** (or relevant vector group) worksheet of the Excel template and email the file to: vector.validation@efsa.epimundi.com.

What should I do if my submission fails validation?

You will receive a "Validation Failed" email with an annotated spreadsheet. Open this file and use the **red highlights** (critical errors) and **yellow highlights** (warnings) to correct your data, then resubmit the updated file to the same email address.

What is the difference between an error and a warning?

Errors are invalid data, such as a text in a numeric field or an end date prior to the start date. These block data submission and need to be fixed in order to request validation by the vector entomologist.

Warnings are unusual data that could nevertheless be correct. They should be checked (and corrected if they are mistakes). If they are correct, you are able to submit your data to the reference entomologists with warnings.

What is the "Validation Map" for?

It visually plots your coordinates to help you identify spatial errors, such as points falling outside the specified country. It is only provided if the system detects spatial errors or warnings.

Can I report a species that is not in the dropdown list?

Yes. You can manually enter the name in a non-controlled cell and paste it into the data sheet, or insert it into the **3.Vector species** or **4.Host species** reference worksheets. Note that these will trigger a system **Warning**, which is normal.



2 VectorNet Reference Entomologists

What should I do with Warnings

If a submitted spreadsheet has warnings, these represent unusual data that the submitter judges to be correct. You should check these carefully, but you can still approve a spreadsheet containing warnings.

How do I approve or reject specific records?

In the new GBIF-formatted worksheet added to the workbook, you must fill in two columns for every row: enter **1** to approve or **0** to reject in the validation column, and provide your **ORCID ID** in the identifier column.

Where do I send the file once I have finished my review?

Email the manually validated workbook back to the **original data provider**. They are responsible for the final upload to the GBIF repository.

How do I add a new species to the system's permanent reference list?

Click the "**Update Species Reference List**" link in any notification email footer. Fill out the web form with the species name, group, and (optionally) its GBIF taxonomic key. The system will then automatically retrieve official records from the GBIF database.

What should I do if I find errors that need correction?

Contact the submitter, explain the problem. Request that they correct the data re-validate and submit again via the validation system.



3 EFSA Managers

How do I control who has access to the validation system?

Access is managed via the **users.csv** file located in the efsa.vector.ref S3 bucket on AWS. You must update this file locally and upload the new version to apply changes.

How can I monitor system usage and submission results?

You can download the **logBook.csv** file from the efsa.vector.ref S3 bucket at any time. This file contains a high-level record of all senders, timestamps, and validation outcomes.

How do I access the AWS buckets?

Contact EpiMundi, and you will be issued with access credentials and instructions for using the system.

What should I do if a reference entomologist changes?

Update the **vector** column in the **users.csv** file. There must be exactly **two reference entomologists** assigned for each specific vector group (ticks, mosquitoes, midges, or sandflies).

