

Optimising coal weigher performance

Supporting best-practice weigher performance to ensure compliance and reduce business risk

Achieving best-practice weigher performance helps build confidence in the accuracy of an organisation's emissions reporting under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS), and reduce business risk under the forthcoming Clean Energy Future Plan (carbon tax).

Challenges

Coal tonnage data from weighers a key input for emission calculations for coal consumers. The challenges to obtaining accurate data from weighers include:

- avoiding weigher inaccuracies due to drift or zero offset, intermittent faults, incorrect settings, or partial or full failure
- implementing the often-required cultural shift to recognise the importance of weigher data – requiring changed maintenance and operating practises
- usage of the NGERS default data replacement method greatly increases emissions uncertainty
- developing performance verification approaches to detect weigher failures early
- developing data substitution procedures to accurately replace erroneous data.

Solutions

HRL expert services to assist clients achieve best-practice coal weigher performance include:

- procedures for checking weigher performance – including reviewing data capture
- methods to allow early detection of errors or failures
- on-site inspection to assess weigher conditions and opportunities for improving accuracy
- developing best-practice calibration, maintenance and inspection routines
- specifying new, or upgrading existing, weigher equipment including weigher location
- data replacement or correction procedures to implement following a partial or full weigher failure.



Optimising coal weigher performance assists with the accurate determination of greenhouse gas emissions

Benefits

HRL expert coal-weigher optimisation services benefit clients by helping them to:

- comply with NGERS requirements
- lower their business risk under the carbon tax
- increase confidence in their emissions reporting
- reduce the risk of long-term weigher errors going undetected
- implement data-replacement methodologies with greater accuracy than the NGERS default method
- obtain independent assessment of their weigher systems.

Avoiding costly coal-weigher error:

For a facility emitting 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, a plus one per cent coal weigher error would result in:

- over estimation of emissions by 150,000 tonnes
- an increased annual permit acquittal liability of \$3.45 million under the proposed carbon tax (with an initial permit price of \$23 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent).

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