

Frequently Asked Questions

AERH2S Model

January 2026

Q1. Could you clarify how AERH2S applies to *Directive 056* amendment applications?

A1. You must use AERH2S for new *Directive 056* applications and any subsequent amendments made after January 1, 2026. However, *Directive 056* amendment applications for approvals issued before January 1, 2026, may use either ERCBH2S or AERH2S. If you need further clarity on which model to use, contact aerepzmodel.questions@aer.ca.

Q2. How do I install and set up AERH2S?

A2. The process for installing and running AERH2S differs from ERCBH2S. Additional information is provided in this FAQ and the *AERH2S User Guide* on the [systems and tools](#) webpage.

Download the AERH2S [packaged zip file](#) from aer.ca. Unzip the file to a folder of your choice. Depending on the corporate security system in your computing environment, additional setup steps may be required:

- AERH2S is designed to accept complex folder names and shared folder environments such as OneDrive. If your organization has rules regarding the prevention of suspicious activity on shared folders, then install AERH2S on a local drive or in a fixed folder structure.
- When the AERH2S-menu.xlam is loaded, select enable macros. Enabling macros is essential for AERH2S to function properly.
- Change all the settings on the BIN page so that the path to each of the listed child applications (AERSLAB.exe, AERFLASH.exe, and AERH2S_RUNBATCH.bat) and folders matches the locations where the AERH2S package file was unzipped.
- Remove Mark of the Web (MotW) if present. Right-click on each of the files extracted from the AERH2S packaged zip file and select properties, then select 'unblock' (if present). Do this for every file in each folder. Typically, this step resolves any remaining run-time issues.

- In some environments, the Microsoft Defender Attack Surface Reduction (ASR) rules may be configured to “block all office applications from creating child processes.” Change the ASR rules to allow child processes, as AERH2S uses child processes.
- In some environments, MotW or ASR rules may suggest that the application should be run from a trusted storage location. This setting may resolve an application block issue; however, it is generally a symptom of another Microsoft Defender blocking rule. In this case, treating the storage location as an “Intranet/Trusted” location may not resolve the application block problem.

Q3. When should I use the licensed versus expected values for operating pressure and H₂S concentration?

A3. AERH2S has entries for both licensed and expected pressure and H₂S concentration. The licensed values are used for pipeline setback and level designations, and the expected values are used for well and pipeline hazard (EPZ) modelling.

For *Directive 056* applications and amendments, use the licensed maximum operating pressure and licensed H₂S concentration in both entries for licensed and expected.

For *Directive 071*, enter the licensed values as prompted and enter the expected maximum operating pressure and expected H₂S concentration for the hazard (EPZ) modelling.

Q4. How do I fix a “check the settings on the BIN page” error message?

A4. The error message is displayed because AERH2S cannot find the files (AERSLAB.exe, AERFLASH.exe, and AERH2S_RUNBATCH.bat) based on the path names entered on the BIN page. Edit the file path names on the BIN page to match the location where the files are saved.

Q5. What causes the “NONREGULATORY MODE” warning message, and is the resulting output acceptable for submission?

A5. The message warns that the settings on the Constants page are set to "No Mitigation." Although you can change these settings for your own modelling purposes, it will result in the "NONREGULATORY MODE" warning message on the outputs. Outputs with a warning message are not valid for submission to the AER for the ERP.

Q6. I am trying to run AERH2S on an online version of Excel, but it does not work. Are xlam extensions compatible with Excel 365? Is there a workaround?

- A6. AERH2S (xlam and.xlsx components) are fully supported within Microsoft 365. However, macros and xlam files will not work with the online version of Excel. You must use the desktop application to run AERH2S.