

Consistent Units Attribute Value for Variables Across One Data Collection

Recommendation:

We recommend the units attribute's value for a particular variable if given should be the same across all files in a data collection.

Recommendation Details: Knowing the physical units of data in a variable is vital for proper use. While the presence of the `units` attribute satisfies that requirement, its value may vary from one file to another for the same variable. For example, while these two values of the `units` attribute represent length: `mm` and `m`, the software processing that variable's data from different files may not take the attribute's value change into account. Using the same `units` attribute value for one variable throughout a data collection decreases the chance of errors.