

AASHTOWare Project Estimation

Understanding Import Errors

Printable Companion Handout (V1 – Updated 9/14/2026)



Introduction

The following document contains a list of common errors that you may encounter while using the Import Tool using AASHTOWare Project Estimation. These errors are generated and displayed in the DataLoad.log output file, which can be downloaded from AWPpe and opened in the Notepad. See 104 – Importing Pay Items to a Cost Estimate for guidance on importing pay items through an external csv file and navigating to the Process History Overview screen.

This document will be separated into common messages which may appear in DataLoad.log after importing pay items. Then, it will delineate why this message is occurring and steps that can be taken to troubleshoot it.

Is not a valid Model name

```
Line 1. Record Type [CostEstimate.Name] :  
CostEstimate.Name is not a valid Model Name.
```

```
Line 2. Record Type [Est_2600189] :  
Est_2600189 is not a valid Model Name.
```

```
Line 23. Record Type [] :  
is not a valid Model Name.
```

Why is this here?

The “is not a valid Model Name” error indicates that the header of the import .csv is incorrect. AASHTOWare Project uses the header to read where in the program the import is supposed to go. For importing to a Cost Estimate, the header should read “AASHTOWareProjectDataLoader, csv, CostEstimates.”

AASHTOWareProjectDataLoader csv		CostEstimates					
CostEstimate.Name	CostEstimate.Description	CostEstimate.ProjectID	CostEstimate.SpecBook	Category.Name	Category.Description	Item.CostEstimateLineNumber	Item.RefItemName
2600189Est		2600189	10		1 BRIDGE THIN DECK OVERLAY		105-06845
2600189Est		2600189	10		1 BRIDGE THIN DECK OVERLAY		110-01001
2600189Est		2600189	10		1 BRIDGE THIN DECK OVERLAY		201-52370
2600189Est		2600189	10		1 BRIDGE THIN DECK OVERLAY		202-93741

How to Troubleshoot

To troubleshoot this error, ensure that the header is formatted properly like above. For an easy template .csv file and an import tool, visit the INDOT Cost Estimation Webpage.

Parent Record does not exist

```
Line 1. Record Type [CostEstimate] :  
Cost Estimate for Project with Project ID (DES #) = "2500712" could not be imported as the parent record does not exist.  
  
Line 3. Record Type [CostEstimateItem] :  
Cost Estimate Item for Cost Estimate with Cost Estimate Name = "Test US20" could not be imported as the parent record does not exist.
```

Why is this here?

The parent record does not exist error is a result of the program looking for the name of a cost estimate, project, or concept that isn't established in AASHTOWare Project Estimation. Because Projects and Cost Estimates are stored in the Specbook, it's possible that csv is looking in the wrong Specbook and not finding the desired cost estimate as a result.

How to Troubleshoot

Check the csv and ensure that the name of the cost estimate, project, or concept matches with the name in the program exactly. Double check any underscores, capitalizations, and spaces that may be in front of or after the name of the cost estimate in the csv file. Check the name of the cost estimate, project or concept in the AASHTOWare program.

Also, ensure the csv is in the correct SpecBook. INDOT stores all cost estimates in SpecBook 10.

Cost Estimate Categories are read-only

```
Line 2. Record Type [CostEstimateCategory] : Cost Estimate Name 'Test 2', Spec Book '10', Snapshot Sequence '', Category '1':  
CostEstimate: Cost Estimate Categories are read-only when the Cost Estimate is associated to a Project and Project Items exist.
```

Why is this here?

When project items and/or categories are established, the cost estimate is harder to control. This is because pay items associated with the project are now stored in the project instead of the controlling cost estimate. Therefore, the program restricts access to the ability to add, remove, and modify pay items and categories. See 111 – Building Project & Segment Items for more information.

How to Troubleshoot

See “Project Items, Categories, or Fund Packages Exist” in 201 – Common Errors & Warnings for more detailed information/instructions.

If you have unintentionally created Project Items in your project, contact INDOTCostEstimationSupport@indot.in.gov. If there are project categories without items, follow the instructions in 201 – Common Errors & Warnings.

RefItem on CostEstimateItem is not valid

```
Line 3. Record Type [CostEstimateItem] :  
RefItem on CostEstimateItem is not valid. It is required and was not found using lookup values : {SpecBook : "10", Name : "105-02845"}.
```

```
Line 3. Record Type [CostEstimateItem] :  
RefItem on CostEstimateItem is not valid. It is required and was not found using lookup values : {SpecBook : "11", Name : "105-06845"}.
```

Why is this here?

This error appears when the program is looking for a specific pay item or category that isn't established in the program. In other words, the pay item code entered does not correspond with a current INDOT standard pay item.

This error may also appear when the specbook column is referencing a specbook that isn't established in AASHTOWare Project Estimation.

How to Troubleshoot

Read the end portion of the error message called out by the brackets. In it, it will call out the SpecBook, the Pay Item Code, and any other value that may be incorrect.

Ensure that the CostEstimate.SpecBook column is number 10. Ensure that the pay item code is valid and corresponds to the desired pay item per the current year's INDOT pay item list.

Description: Invalid Value

```
Line 2. Record Type [CostEstimateCategory] : Cost Estimate Name '1900051_07', Spec Book '10', Snapshot Sequence '', Category '1':  
Description: Description: Invalid value ''; value is required. (base rule)  
Description: Description: Invalid value ''; value is required. (custom rule)
```

Why is this here?

This error signifies that the program is looking for a required column that is not in the csv import file. This is why the invalid value is denoted as "", since it is reading a column that doesn't exist in the csv file.

How to Troubleshoot

Ensure that all of the required columns are typed in your csv file. Below are the columns that are strictly required to import a cost estimate. See 104 – Importing Pay Items to a Cost Estimate Companion for a comprehensive list and more detailed instructions.

.csv Column Name	Column Contents	Requirement
------------------	-----------------	-------------

CostEstimate.Name	Name of the Cost Estimate	Name of the applicable cost estimate. Must match EXACTLY.
CostEstimate.ProjectID	Name of the Project	Name of the applicable project. Must match EXACTLY.
CostEstimate.SpecBook	Spec book originally specified in project setup	Ensure cells are "10".
Category.Name	Name of item category	If you're using the default singular category 0001, ensure cells are "0001".
Category.Description	Description of the Item Category	Description of the applicable category. Must match EXACTLY.
Item.CostEstimateLineNumber	Row number in the cost estimate the pay item will be imported to.	Ensure the row number (starting with 1) is the desired row.
Item.ReflItemName	Pay Item Number	The desired pay item number to be added.
Item.SupplementalDescription (if required)	Supplemental Description	The supplemental description of a given pay item, if required.

You can also compare your current csv file to the template csv file found in the INDOT Cost Estimation Webpage. The Excel macro sheet provided on the webpage will also generate a proper csv import file with every required column.

Lump Sum Project Item

```
Line 9. Record Type [CostEstimateItem] : Cost Estimate Name 'TestVideo', Spec Book '10', Snapshot Sequence '', Line '7':
Quantity: The Quantity for a Lump Sum Project Item must be greater than 0 and less than or equal to 1.0
```

Why is this here?

A pay item that's designated as lump sum (with units "LS") has been given a value other than 1 in the import csv file. Lump Sum items must be given a 1 quantity to be imported to AASHTOWare Project Estimation without an error.

How to Troubleshoot

The error will give you the corresponding line where the item has the incorrect quantity in the middle of the error. For example, the error message above pertains to Line 7.

Find the item in the corresponding line and ensure that the quantity value in the Item.Quantity column is 1.

An Item with the same key has already been added

```
Line 3. Record Type [CostEstimateItem] :  
An item with the same key has already been added.    at System.ThrowHelper.ThrowArgumentException(ExceptionResource resource)  
at System.Collections.Generic.Dictionary`2.Insert(TKey key, TValue value, Boolean add)  
at DataLoader.RecordReaders.CsvRecordReader.ReadFields(String line, IEnumerable`1 attributeLayouts, Boolean overwriteBlanks)  
at DataLoader.RecordParsers.BusinessEntityRecordParser.Parse(String line, DataLoaderImportTypeEnum recordType, Boolean overwriteBlanks)  
at DataLoader.DataLoader.ImportFile(String importFile)
```

Why is this here?

This error appears when the import csv contains a duplicate column. For example, two Item.ReflItemName columns will cause an overlap, even if the contents of the columns are different.

How to Troubleshoot

Audit each of the columns in your import csv and find any repeating columns. Delete the duplicate column:

1. Selecting the letter ribbon at the top of the screen

E	F	G	H	I
Category.Name	Category.Description	Item.CostEstimateLineNumber	Item.ReflItemName	Item.ReflItemName
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	1	105-06845	105-06845
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	2	110-01001	110-01001
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	3	201-52370	201-52370
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	4	202-02240	202-02240
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	5	601-02241	601-02241
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	6	202-51328	202-51328
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	7	203-02000	203-02000
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	8	205-12108	205-12108
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	9	205-12616	205-12616
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	10	302-06464	302-06464
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	11	211-06467	211-06467
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	12	214-12239	214-12239
0001	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	13	301-12234	301-12234

2. Right-click the letter, then click “Delete”

E	F	G	H	I	J
Category.Name	Category.Description	Item.CostEstimateLineNumber	Item.R		Item.Quantity
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	1	105-06		1
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	2	110-01		1
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	3	201-52		1
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	4	202-02		410
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	5	601-02		751
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	6	202-51		1
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	7	203-02		500
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	8	205-12		17796
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	9	205-12		1
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	10	302-06		104
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	11	211-06		78
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	12	214-12		806
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	13	301-12		54
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	14	302-06		104
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	15	303-01		148
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	16	306-08		924
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	17	401-00		101
✓	0001 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	18	401-000041	401-000041	41

More than one entry returned meeting criteria

```
Line 3. Record Type [CostEstimateItem] :
RefItem: More than one entity returned meeting criteria
```

Why is this here?

This error appears when AASHTOWare Project Estimation does not recognize the name or label of a given column. The first portion of the column name before the period (i.e. [Item.CostEstimateLineNumber](#)) tells the program where in the cost estimate it will be importing the values below to. When the program does not recognize the first portion of the column name, it returns without proper knowledge of where the information should be deposited.

How to Troubleshoot

Ensure that the column titles are accurately spelled and formatted. Check to see if there is a period in the middle of the column title (i.e. ItemCostEstimateLineNumber instead of Item.CostEstimateLineNumber).

Could not find field “ on entity “

```
Line 3. Record Type [CostEstimateItem] :
Could not find field 'RefItemNaming' on entity 'CostEstimateItem'
```

Why is this here?

This error appears when AASHTOWare Project Estimation does not recognize the name or label of a given column. Though it does recognize the first portion of the name as the entity (i.e. Any column starting with “Item.” will return as entity ‘CostEstimateItem’), it does not recognize the second half of the column name. In the case above, the column is written is “Item.[RefItemNaming](#)” instead of “Item.[RefItemName](#).” Because AASHTOWare recognizes “Item.” and not “CostEstimateNaming,” the program returns this error.

How to Troubleshoot

Ensure that column that returned an error is given the proper name and spelling. Visit the INDOT Cost Estimation webpage to download the template document. Compare the column names in the template document to your import csv. The proper naming and spelling of each column name may also be found at 104 – Importing Pay Items to a Cost Estimate.

[Any Other Errors](#)

If you encounter an error that isn’t listed in this document, try creating a new csv through the Excel macro import tool or the template file, both found in the INDOT Cost Estimation Webpage.

For any questions, please contact INDOTCostEstimationSupport@indot.in.gov.