

# 5 Common CUSTOM FIELD mistakes in Empower CDS

Why your Custom Field isn't working

# 1 Mixing up Peak and Result field types

## Peak Custom Fields

perform calculations for individual peaks and are displayed in the Peaks table.

*Example: Area/Factor*

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## Result Custom Fields

operate on the entire result and are displayed in the Results window.

*Example: SUM(Amount)*

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You can also do calculations for a specific peak with a Result Custom Field, but then you must explicitly identify it:

*Acetone[Area]/Factor*

# 2 Unnecessary spaces

Most Custom Field formulas do not require spaces.

The only exception is when the field name itself contains spaces. Otherwise, there is usually no reason to add them.

Small detail, surprisingly common source of errors.

# 3 Typos in formulas

Many users type complete formulas manually instead of selecting fields from the list.

The result? Typos.

To avoid this, double-click fields from the available list whenever possible.

# 4 "Result Set First" Search Order

This applies only to Intersample Custom Fields.

By default, Search Order is often set to:

**Result Set First**

This means Empower may use results outside your current Result Set for calculations.

In most cases, this is not what you want.

Use **Result Set Only** instead.

This guarantees that only results from the current Result Set are included.

# 5 Missing "Summarize Custom Fields"

For Intersample calculations to work, the Sample Set must contain a:  
**Summarize Custom Fields** line at the end.

Without it, the calculations will not be performed. Easy to forget. Easy to troubleshoot for hours.

Also relevant only for Intersample Custom Fields.

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