

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 8(1)

Sampling points for measurement of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter, lead, benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air

PART 1

General

1. Ambient air quality shall be assessed at sampling points located in accordance with this Schedule, except at locations set out in paragraph 2.

Commencement Information

I1 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 1 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

2. Compliance with limit values directed at the protection of human health does not need to be assessed at the following locations—

- (a) any location situated within areas where members of the public do not have access and there is no fixed habitation;
- (b) on factory premises or at industrial locations to which all relevant provisions concerning health and safety at work apply; and
- (c) on the carriageway of roads and on the central reservations of roads except where there is normally pedestrian access to the central reservation.

Commencement Information

I2 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 2 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

3. Insofar as they are relevant, the principles set out in the Schedule also apply to indicative measurement and modelling.

Commencement Information

I3 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 3 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

Commencement Information

I1 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 1 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I2 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 2 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I3 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 3 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

PART 2

Macroscale siting of sampling points

Sampling points for the protection of human health

1. Sampling points directed at the protection of human health must be sited to provide data on—
 - (a) the areas within zones where the highest concentrations occur to which the population is likely to be directly or indirectly exposed for a period which is significant in relation to the averaging period of the limit values; and
 - (b) levels in other areas within the zones which are representative of the exposure of the general population.

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Commencement Information

I4 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 1 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

2. Sampling points shall in general be sited to avoid measuring very small micro-environments in their immediate vicinity. Where feasible, the Department shall locate sampling points so as to be representative of air quality in a street segment of no less than 100 m in length at traffic-orientated sites or an area of at least 250 m x 250 m at industrial sites.

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Commencement Information

I5 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 2 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

3. Sampling points in urban background locations shall be located so that their pollution level is influenced by the combined contribution from all sources upwind of the station. The pollution level should not be dominated by a single source unless such a situation is typical for a larger urban area. Those sampling points shall, as a general rule, be representative for several square kilometres.

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Commencement Information

I6 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 3 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

4. Where the objective is to assess rural background levels, the sampling point shall not be influenced by agglomerations or industrial sites in its vicinity, i.e. closer than five kilometres.

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Commencement Information

I7 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 4 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

5. Where contributions from industrial sources are to be assessed, at least one sampling point shall be installed downwind of the source in the nearest residential area. Where the background concentration is not known, an additional sampling point shall be situated within the main wind direction.

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I8 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 5 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

6. Sampling points shall also, where possible, be representative of similar locations not in their immediate vicinity.

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I9 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 6 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

7. Account shall be taken of the need to locate sampling points on islands, where it is necessary for the protection of human health.

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I10 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 7 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

Commencement Information

I4 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 1 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I5 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 2 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I6 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 3 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I7 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 4 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I8 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 5 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I9 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 6 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

I10 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 7 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

Protection of ecosystems and vegetation

8. Sampling points targeted at the protection of ecosystems or vegetation shall be sited more than 20 km from agglomerations or more than 5 km from other built-up areas, industrial installations or motorways or major roads with traffic counts of more than 50,000 vehicles per day. The Department shall locate sampling points so as to be representative of air quality in a surrounding area of at least 1000 km². A sampling point may be sited at a lesser distance or to be representative of air quality in a less extended area, taking account of geographical conditions or opportunities to protect particularly vulnerable areas. Account shall be taken of the need to assess air quality on islands.

Commencement Information

I11 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 8 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

PART 3

Microscale siting of sampling points

9. Insofar as is practicable, sampling points shall be situated in accordance with the following criteria—

- [^{F1}(a) the flow around the inlet sampling probe shall be unrestricted (in general free in an arc of at least 270° or 180° for sampling points at the building line) without any obstructions affecting the airflow in the vicinity of the inlet (normally some metres away from

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, SCHEDULE 1. (See end of Document for details)

- buildings, balconies, trees and other obstacles and at least 0.5 m from the nearest building in the case of sampling points representing air quality at the building line);
- (b) in general, the inlet sampling point shall be between 1.5 m (the breathing zone) and 4 m above the ground. Higher siting may also be appropriate if the station is representative of a large area and any derogations should be fully documented;]
 - (c) the inlet probe shall not be positioned in the immediate vicinity of sources in order to avoid the direct intake of emissions unmixed with ambient air;
 - (d) the sampler’s exhaust outlet must be positioned so that recirculation of exhaust air to the sampler inlet is avoided;
 - (e) [^{F2}in relation to the location of traffic-orientated samplers, sampling points must be at least 25 m from the edge of major junctions and no more than 10 m from the kerbside. A “major junction” is a junction which interrupts the traffic flow and causes different emissions (due to vehicles stopping and starting) from the rest of the road.]

- F1** Sch. 1 Pt. 3 para. 9(a)(b) substituted (9.2.2017) by [The Air Quality Standards \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2017 \(S.R. 2017/2\)](#), regs. 1, **4(a)**
- F2** Sch. 1 Pt. 3 para. 9(e) substituted (9.2.2017) by [The Air Quality Standards \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2017 \(S.R. 2017/2\)](#), regs. 1, **4(b)**

Commencement Information

- I12** Sch. 1 Pt. 3 para. 9 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

10. The following factors may also be taken into account—

- (a) interfering sources;
- (b) security;
- (c) access;
- (d) availability of electrical power and telephone communications;
- (e) visibility of the site in relation to its surroundings;
- (f) safety of public and operators;
- (g) the desirability of co-locating sampling points for different pollutants; and
- (h) planning requirements.

Commencement Information

- I13** Sch. 1 Pt. 3 para. 10 in operation at 11.6.2010, see [reg. 1](#)

[^{F3}11. Any deviation from the criteria listed in this Part shall be documented in accordance with Part 4.]

- F3** Sch. 1 Pt. 3 para. 11 inserted (9.2.2017) by [The Air Quality Standards \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2017 \(S.R. 2017/2\)](#), regs. 1, **4(c)**

[^{F4}PART 4

Documentation and review of site selection

F4 Sch. 1 Pt. 4 inserted (9.2.2017) by [The Air Quality Standards \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2017 \(S.R. 2017/2\)](#), regs. 1, 5

1. The Department shall, for all zones and agglomerations, fully document the site-selection procedures and record information to support the network design and choice of location for all monitoring sites.

2. The documentation shall include compass-point photographs of the area surrounding monitoring sites and detailed maps.

3. Where supplementary methods are used within a zone or agglomeration, the documentation shall include details of these methods and information on how the criteria listed in Article 7(3) of the Directive are met.

4. The documentation shall be updated as necessary and reviewed at least every 5 years, to ensure that selection criteria, network design and monitoring site locations remain valid and optimal over time.]

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, SCHEDULE 1.