
SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2000 No. 97

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000

Made - - - - 31st March 2000

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1(1)

The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by sections 87(1), (2)(b) and (h), (3) and (5) and 91(1) of the Environment Act 1995⁽¹⁾ and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf having, in accordance with section 87(7) of that Act, consulted the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, such bodies or persons appearing to them to be representative of the interests of local government and of industry as they consider appropriate, and such other bodies or persons as they consider appropriate, hereby make the following Regulations, a draft of which has been laid before and has been approved by the Scottish Parliament:

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and shall come into force on the seventh day after the day on which they are made.

(2) These Regulations shall extend to Scotland only.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the 1995 Act” means the Environment Act 1995;

“level” means the measured ambient concentration of a pollutant in the air, expressed as milligrams or micrograms per cubic metre.

(2) The provisions of the Schedule to these Regulations which follow the Table in that Schedule shall have effect for the purpose of the interpretation of that Schedule.

Relevant periods

3. The relevant period for the purposes of Part IV of the 1995 Act shall be, in relation to an air quality objective, the period beginning with the date on which these Regulations come into force and ending, in respect of the substance specified in column 1 of the Table in the Schedule to these Regulations and the objective relating to that substance specified in column 2 of that Table, on the

(1) 1995 c. 25. See the definitions of “prescribed”, “regulations” and “relevant period” in section 91(1) of that Act. The functions of the Secretary of State were transferred to the Scottish Ministers by virtue of section 53 of the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46).

date set out in the corresponding entry relative to that substance and that objective in column 3 of that Table.

Air quality objectives

4.—(1) The air quality objective, in respect of a substance specified in column 1 of the Table in the Schedule to these Regulations shall be to restrict the level at which that substance is present in the air to the level set out in the corresponding entry relative to that substance in column 2 of that Table, by no later than the date set out in the corresponding entry relative to that substance and that objective in column 3 of that Table.

(2) The achievement or likely achievement of an air quality objective prescribed by paragraph (1) above shall be determined by reference to the quality of air at locations—

- (a) which are situated outside of buildings or other natural or man-made structures; and
- (b) where members of the public are regularly present.

Revocation

5. The Air Quality Regulations 1997(2) are revoked, in so far as they extend to Scotland.

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh
31st March 2000

SARAH BOYACK
A member of the Scottish Executive

SCHEDULE

Regulations 2(2), 3 and 4

AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES TABLE

	<i>Column 1 Substance</i>	<i>Column 2 Air Quality Objectives</i>	<i>Column 3 Prescribed Date</i>
1	Benzene	16.25 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as running annual mean	31st December 2003
2	1,3-Butadiene	2.25 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as a running annual mean	31st December 2003
3	Carbon monoxide	11.6 milligrams per cubic metre or less, when expressed as a running 8 hour mean	31st December 2003
4	Lead	0.5 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as an annual mean	31st December 2004
5	Lead	0.25 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as an annual mean	31st December 2008
6	Nitrogen dioxide	200 micrograms per cubic metre, when expressed as an hourly mean, not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	31st December 2005
7	Nitrogen dioxide	40 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as an annual mean	31st December 2005
8	PM ₁₀	50 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as a 24 hour mean, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	31st December 2004
9	PM ₁₀	40 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as an annual mean	31st December 2004

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	<i>Column 1 Substance</i>	<i>Column 2 Air Quality Objectives</i>	<i>Column 3 Prescribed Date</i>
10	Sulphur dioxide	350 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as an hourly mean, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	31st December 2004
11	Sulphur dioxide	125 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as a 24 hour mean, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	31st December 2004
12	Sulphur dioxide	266 micrograms per cubic metre or less, when expressed as a 15 minute mean, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year.	31st December 2005

Interpretation

For the purposes of this Schedule—

1. “PM₁₀” means particulate matter which passes through a size-selective inlet with 50% efficient cut-off at 10 µm aerodynamic diameter.

2.—(1) A running annual mean is a mean which is calculated on an hourly basis, yielding one running annual mean per hour and the running annual mean for a particular substance at a particular location for a particular hour is the mean of the hourly levels for that substance at that location for that hour and the preceding 8,759 hours.

(2) For the purpose of the calculation of a running annual mean, the hourly level for a particular substance at a particular location is either—

- (a) the level at which that substance is recorded as being present in the air at that location during the hour on the basis of a continuous sample of air taken during that hour for at least 30 minutes; or
- (b) the mean of the levels recorded at that location on the basis of 2 or more samples of air taken during the hour for an aggregate period of at least 30 minutes.

3. A running 8 hour mean is a mean which is calculated on an hourly basis, yielding one running 8 hour mean per hour and the running 8 hour mean for a particular substance at a particular location for a particular hour is the mean of the hourly means for that substance at that location for that hour and the preceding 7 hours.

4.—(1) Subject to sub paragraph (2) below, an annual mean is a mean which is calculated on a yearly basis, yielding one annual mean per calendar year.

(2) The annual mean for a particular substance at a particular location for a particular calendar year is—

- (a) in the case of lead, the mean of the daily levels for that year;

- (b) in the case of nitrogen dioxide, the mean of the hourly means for that year;
- (c) in the case of PM₁₀, the mean of the 24 hour means for that year.

(3) For the purpose of the calculation of an annual mean for lead, the daily level for lead at a particular location for a particular day is the level at which lead is recorded as being present in the air at that location during the week in which the day occurs on the basis of a continuous sample of air taken throughout that week (each day in that week therefore being attributed with the same daily level).

(4) For the purpose of sub paragraph (3) above, “week” means a complete week beginning on a Monday, except that it also includes any period of less than seven days from the beginning of the calendar year until the first Monday in that year or from the beginning of the last Monday in the calendar year to the end of that year.

5. An hourly mean is a mean calculated every hour and the hourly mean for a particular substance at a particular location for a particular hour is the mean of the levels recorded, at a frequency of not less than once every 10 seconds, for that substance at that location during that hour.

6. A 24 hour mean is a mean calculated every 24 hours and the 24 hour mean for a particular substance at a particular location for a particular 24 hour period is the level at which that substance is recorded as being present in the air at that location on the basis of a continuous sample of air taken throughout the period.

7. A 15 minute mean is a mean calculated every 15 minutes and the 15 minute mean for a particular substance at a particular location for a particular 15 minute period is the mean of the levels recorded, at a frequency of not less than once every 10 seconds, for that substance at that location during that 15 minute period.

8. The reference to a number of micrograms or milligrams per cubic metre of a substance is a reference to the number of micrograms or milligrams per cubic metre of that substance when measured with the volume standardised at a temperature of 293(K and at a pressure of 101.3 kilopascals.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 requires local authorities in Scotland to conduct a review of the quality of air within their area. That review has to consider the air quality for the time being and the likely future air quality within the “relevant period” (a period to be prescribed by Regulations). Such reviews have to be accompanied by an assessment of whether any prescribed air quality standards or objectives are being achieved or are likely to be achieved within the relevant period.

These Regulations prescribe the relevant period for the purpose of that review (regulation 3) and sets the air quality objectives to be achieved by the end of that period (regulation 4 and the Schedule). The objectives are the same as those set out in the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (SE 2000/3, January 2000), published by the Scottish Executive in accordance with section 80 of the 1995 Act. Guidance entitled “Review and Assessment: Pollutant Specific Guidance LAQM TG4” has been issued in respect of the appropriate methodology to be used by local authorities in undertaking their air quality review and assessment. The Strategy and the Guidance are

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available from the Scottish Executive, Air Climate & Engineering Unit (Air Quality Team), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

Where any of the prescribed objectives are not likely to be achieved within any part of the area of a local authority within the relevant period, the local authority concerned requires to designate that part of its area as an air quality management area (section 83(1) of the 1995 Act). An action plan covering the designated area will then have to be prepared setting out how the local authority intends to exercise its powers in relation to the designated area so as to achieve the prescribed objectives (section 84(2) of the 1995 Act).

These Regulations replace the provisions of the Air Quality Regulations 1997 in relation to Scotland, which are therefore revoked to that extent.