

ANNEX III

Assessment of ambient air quality and location of sampling points for the measurement of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2,5}), lead, benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air

A. General

Ambient air quality shall be assessed in all zones and agglomerations in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Ambient air quality shall be assessed at all locations except those listed in paragraph 2, in accordance with the criteria established by Sections B and C for the location of sampling points for fixed measurement. The principles established by Sections B and C shall also apply in so far as they are relevant in identifying the specific locations in which concentration of the relevant pollutants are established where ambient air quality is assessed by indicative measurement or modelling.
2. Compliance with the limit values directed at the protection of human health shall not be assessed at the following locations:
 - (a) any locations situated within areas where members of the public do not have access and there is no fixed habitation;
 - (b) in accordance with Article 2(1), on factory premises or at industrial installations to which all relevant provisions concerning health and safety at work apply;
 - (c) on the carriageway of roads; and on the central reservations of roads except where there is normally pedestrian access to the central reservation.

B. Macroscale siting of sampling points

1. Protection of human health
 - (a) Sampling points directed at the protection of human health shall be sited in such a way as to provide data on the following:
 - the areas within zones and agglomerations 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 value(s),
 - levels in other areas within the zones and agglomerations which are representative of the exposure of the general population,
 - (b) Sampling points shall in general be sited in such a way as to avoid measuring very small micro-environments in their immediate vicinity, which means that a sampling point must be sited in such a way that the air sampled is representative of air quality for a street segment no less than 100 m length at traffic-orientated sites and at least 250 m × 250 m at industrial sites, where feasible;
 - (c) Urban background locations shall be located so that their pollution level is influenced by the integrated 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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- (d) 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. sites closer than five kilometres;
- (e) 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;
- (f) Sampling points shall, where possible, also be representative of similar locations not in their immediate vicinity;
- (g) Account shall be taken of the need to locate sampling points on islands where that is necessary for the protection of human health.

2. Protection of vegetation and natural ecosystems

Sampling points targeted at the protection of vegetation and natural ecosystems shall be sited more than 20 km away from agglomerations or more than 5 km away from other built-up areas, industrial installations or motorways or major roads with traffic counts of more than 50 000 vehicles per day, which means that a sampling point must be sited in such a way that the air sampled is representative of air quality in a surrounding area of at least 1 000 km². A Member State may provide for a sampling point to be sited at a lesser distance or to be representative of air quality in a less extended area, taking account of geographical conditions or of the opportunities to protect particularly vulnerable areas.

Account shall be taken of the need to assess air quality on islands.

C. Microscale siting of sampling points

In so far as is practicable, the following shall apply:

- [^{F1}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 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),
- 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,]
- 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,
- the sampler's exhaust outlet shall be positioned so that recirculation of exhaust air to the sampler inlet is avoided,
- [^{F1}for all pollutants, traffic-orientated sampling probes shall be at least 25 m from the edge of major junctions and no more than 10 m from the kerbside. A 'major junction' to be considered here is a junction which interrupts the traffic flow and causes different emissions (stop&go) from the rest of the road.,]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Commission Directive \(EU\) 2015/1480 of 28 August 2015 amending several annexes to Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the](#)

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rules concerning reference methods, data validation and location of sampling points for the assessment of ambient air quality (Text with EEA relevance).

The following factors may also be taken into account:

- interfering sources,
- security,
- access,
- availability of electrical power and telephone communications,
- visibility of the site in relation to its surroundings,
- safety of the public and operators,
- the desirability of co-locating sampling points for different pollutants,
- planning requirements.,

[^{F2}Any deviation from the criteria listed in this Section shall be fully documented through the procedures described in Section D.]

Textual Amendments

- F2** Inserted by [Commission Directive \(EU\) 2015/1480 of 28 August 2015 amending several annexes to Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules concerning reference methods, data validation and location of sampling points for the assessment of ambient air quality \(Text with EEA relevance\).](#)

[^{F1}D. Documentation and review of site selection

The competent authorities responsible for air quality assessment 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. The documentation shall include compass-point photographs of the area surrounding monitoring sites and detailed maps. 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) are met. 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. The documentation shall be provided to the Commission within 3 months of being requested.]