
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2007 No. 265

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Made - - - - - *30th April 2007*

Coming into operation *28th May 2007*

**THE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2007**

PART 1

1. Citation and commencement
2. Definitions and interpretation
3. Responsibility for implementation of the Air Framework Directive

PART 2

CHAPTER 1

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5. Zones and agglomerations
6. Air quality standards

CHAPTER 2

7. General attainment measures
8. Improvement plans
9. Other improvement measures

CHAPTER 3

10. Maintenance of air quality standards
11. Action plans

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CHAPTER 4

- 12. Duty to assess air quality
- 13. Assessment methods
- 14. Fixed and combined measurement
- 15. Sampling points
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- 18. Measurement of ozone precursor substances
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- 25. Information on breach of air quality standards
- 26. Ozone annual report
- 27. Information on action and improvement plans
- 28. Public participation in improvement plans

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SCHEDULE 1 Air Quality standards

- PART 1 — Limit values for Group A pollutants
- PART 2 — Margins of tolerance for benzene and nitrogen dioxide
- PART 3 — Target values for Group B pollutants
- 1. The target values in the following table in each case...
- 2. The attainment date for each of these target values is...
- PART 4 — Target values and long-term objectives for ozone
- 3. In this Part— (a) all values shall be expressed in...

SCHEDULE 2 Information to be included in an Improvement Plan

- 1. Localisation of excess pollution— (a) region; (b) city (map); and...
- 2. General information— (a) type of zone (city, industrial or rural...
- 3. Responsible authorities (names and addresses of persons responsible for the...
- 4. Nature and assessment of pollution— (a) concentrations observed over previous...
- 5. Origin of pollution— (a) list of the main emission sources...

6. Analysis of the situation— (a) details of those factors responsible...
 7. Details of those measures or projects for improvements which existed...
 8. Details of those measures or projects adopted with a view...
 9. Details of the measures or projects planned or being researched...
 10. List of the publications, documents, and work used to supplement...
- SCHEDULE 3
Alert and information thresholds
- PART 1 — Alert thresholds for nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide
PART 2 — Alert and information thresholds for ozone
- SCHEDULE 4
Assessment thresholds
- PART 1 — Assessment thresholds for Group A pollutants
PART 2 — Assessment thresholds for Group B pollutants
PART 3 — Determination of representative concentrations
1. The representative concentration of the relevant pollutant shall be determined...
 2. Where fewer than five years' data are available, measurement campaigns...
- SCHEDULE 5
Minimum number of sampling points
- PART 1 — Group A pollutants: human health based limit values and alert thresholds
1. This Part sets out the minimum number of sampling points...
 2. Point sources
- PART 2 — Group A pollutants: limit values for the protection of ecosystems or vegetation
3. The following table sets out the minimum number of sampling...
 4. In island zones the number of sampling points for fixed...
- PART 3 — Group B pollutants
5. This Part sets out the minimum number of sampling points...
 6. Point sources
- PART 4 — Ozone
7. The minimum number of sampling points for fixed measurement of...
- PART 5 — Ozone: minimum number of sampling points for fixed measurements for zones attaining the long-term objectives
8. In cases where zones attain the long-term objectives, the number...
 9. The number of stations located in agglomerations and other zones...
 10. The number of rural background stations shall be 1 per...
- SCHEDULE 6
Location of sampling points
- PART 1 — Macroscale siting for Group A pollutants
1. Sampling points for the protection of human health
 2. Sampling points should in general be sited to avoid measuring...
 3. Sampling points shall also, where possible, be representative of similar...
 4. Account shall be taken of the need to locate sampling...
 5. Protection of ecosystems and vegetation
- PART 2 — Macroscale siting for Group B pollutants
6. The sites of sampling points should be selected in such...
 7. Sampling points shall in general be sited so as to...
 8. Where the objective is to assess background levels the sampling...

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9. Where contributions from industrial sources are to be assessed, at...
10. Sampling points shall also, where possible, be representative of similar...

PART 3 — Macroscale siting for ozone

11. Sampling points for ozone shall be located in accordance with...
12. For rural and rural background stations, consideration shall be given,...

PART 4 — Microscale siting

13. The following guidelines should be met as far as practicable—...
14. The following factors may also be taken into account—

PART 5 — Documentation and review of site selection

15. The site-selection procedures shall be fully documented at the classification...
16. For ozone, this requires screening and interpretation of the monitoring...

SCHEDULE 7 Requirements for assessment methods other than fixed measurement

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PART 1 — Group A pollutants

1. The following information shall be compiled for zones within which...
2. Where possible maps shall be compiled showing concentration distributions within...

PART 2 — Group B pollutants

3. Requirements for air quality models
4. Requirements for objective estimation techniques
5. Standardisation

PART 3 — Ozone and ozone precursor substances

6. The following information should be compiled for zones within which...
7. The Department shall ensure that maps are compiled showing concentration...

SCHEDULE 8 Data quality objectives

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PART 1 — Group A pollutants and PM_{2.5}

1. Group A pollutants (other than benzene and carbon monoxide) and PM_{2.5}
2. The accuracy of the measurement is defined as that set...
3. The accuracy for modelling and objective estimation is defined as...
4. The requirements for minimum data capture and time coverage do...
5. The Department may allow for random measurements to be made...
6. Benzene and carbon monoxide
7. The uncertainty (on a 95% confidence interval) of the assessment...
8. The uncertainty for modelling and objective estimation is defined as...
9. The requirements for minimum data capture and time coverage do...
10. The Department may allow for random measurements to be made...

PART 2 — Group B pollutants, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and total gaseous mercury

11. The data quality objectives set out in the following table...
12. The uncertainty (expressed at a 95 % confidence level) of...
13. The requirements for minimum data capture and time coverage do...
14. The Department may allow for use of wet only instead...
15. The Department may apply a minimum time coverage lower than...

- PART 3 — Ozone and nitrogen dioxide assessed at ozone sampling points
16. The data quality objectives set out in the following table,...
 17. The uncertainty (on a 95% confidence interval) of the measurement...
 18. The uncertainty for modelling and objective estimation means the maximum...
 19. “Time coverage” means the percentage of time considered for settling...
 20. “Data capture” means the ratio of the time for which...
 21. The requirements for minimum data capture and time coverage do...
- SCHEDULE 9 Reference methods
- PART 1 — Group A pollutants
PART 2 — Group B pollutants in ambient air
PART 3 — Ozone
PART 4 — Other reference methods
- SCHEDULE 10 Ozone precursor substances
1. Objectives
 2. An additional aim is to support the understanding of ozone...
 3. Substances
 4. The Department shall, in particular, consider measuring the following volatile...
 5. Reference methods
 6. Monitoring sites
- SCHEDULE 11 Public information where alert or information thresholds are exceeded
- PART 1 — Alert thresholds for nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide
1. In cases where the alert thresholds for nitrogen dioxide or...
- PART 2 — Alert and information thresholds for ozone
2. In cases where either the information threshold or the alert...
 3. Information on any observed exceedance— (a) the location or area...
 4. Forecast for the following afternoon, day or days—
 5. Information on the type of population concerned, possible health effects...
 6. Information provided under this Schedule shall also include—
- SCHEDULE 12 Collation of information and criteria for aggregating data and calculating statistical parameters
- PART 1 — Information to be submitted to the Commission
1. The following information on ozone concentrations shall be obtained and...
 2. The Department shall also ensure that the following information is...
 3. Data compiled in monthly reports shall be considered provisional and...
- PART 2 — Criteria for aggregating data and calculating statistical parameters
4. In this Part, percentiles are to be calculated using the...
 5. The following criteria are to be used for checking validity...
- Explanatory Note