

National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of human health

Pollutant	Applies	Objective	Concentration measured as ¹	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	European obligations	Date to be achieved by and maintained thereafter	New or existing
Particles (PM ₁₀)	UK	50µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2004	50µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	1 January 2005	Retain existing
	UK	40µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	31 December 2004	40µg.m ⁻³	1 January 2005	
	Indicative 2010 objectives for PM ₁₀ (from the 2000 Strategy and 2003 Addendum) have been replaced by an exposure reduction approach for PM _{2.5} (except in Scotland – see below)						
	Scotland	50µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2010			Retain existing
	Scotland	18µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	31 December 2010			
Particles (PM _{2.5}) Exposure Reduction	UK (except Scotland)	25 µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	2020	Target value 25µg.m ⁻³	2010	New [European obligations still under negotiation]
	Scotland	12 µg.m ⁻³		2020	Limit value 25µg.m ⁻³	2015	
	UK urban areas	Target of 15% reduction in concentrations at urban background ²		Between 2010 and 2020	Target of 20% reduction in concentrations at urban background ³	Between 2010 and 2020	
Nitrogen dioxide	UK	200µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1 hour mean	31 December 2005	200µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1 January 2010	Retain existing

¹ An explanation of the different concentration measurements is provided in Volume 2 of the strategy

² 25µg.m⁻³ is a cap to be seen in conjunction with 15% reduction

³ The European directive with proposals for PM_{2.5} concentrations in air is currently subject to negotiation and final adoption

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	UK	40µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	31 December 2005	40µg.m ⁻³	1 January 2010	
Ozone	UK	100µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 10 times a year	8 hour mean	31 December 2005	Target of 120µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 25 times a year averaged over 3 years	31 December 2010	Retain existing
Sulphur dioxide	UK	266µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15 minute mean	31 December 2005			Retain existing
	UK	350µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1 hour mean	31 December 2004	350µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1 January 2005	
	UK	125µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2004	125µg.m ⁻³ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	1 January 2005	
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	UK	0.25ng.m ⁻³ B[a]P	as annual average	31 December 2010	Target of 1ng.m ⁻³	31 December 2012	Retain existing
Benzene	UK	16.25µg.m ⁻³	running annual mean	31 December 2003			Retain existing
	England and Wales	5µg.m ⁻³	annual average	31 December 2010	5µg.m ⁻³	1 January 2010	

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	Scotland, Northern Ireland	3.25µg.m ⁻³	running annual mean	31 December 2010			
1,3- butadiene	UK	2.25µg.m ⁻³	running annual mean	31 December 2003			Retain existing
Carbon monoxide	UK	10mg.m ⁻³	maximum daily running 8 hour mean/in Scotland as running 8 hour mean	31 December 2003	10mg.m ⁻³	1 January 2005	Retain existing
Lead	UK	0.5µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	31 December 2004	0.5µg.m ⁻³	1 January 2005	Retain existing
		0.25µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	31 December 2008			
National air quality objectives and European Directive limit values for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems							
Nitrogen oxides	UK	30µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	31 December 2000	30µg.m ⁻³	19 July 2001	Retain existing in accordance with 1 st Daughter Directive

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Sulphur dioxide	UK	20µg.m ⁻³	annual mean	31 December 2000	20µg.m ⁻³	19 July 2001	Retain existing in accordance with 1 st Daughter Directive
	UK	20µg.m ⁻³	winter average	31 December 2000	20µg.m ⁻³	19 July 2001	
Ozone: protection of vegetation & ecosystems	UK	Target value of 18,000µg m ⁻³ based on AOT40 to be calculated from 1 hour values from May to July, and to be achieved, so far as possible, by 2010	Average over 5 years	1 January 2010	Target value of 18,000µg m ⁻³ based on AOT40 to be calculated from 1 hour values from May to July, and to be achieved, so far as possible, by 2010	1 January 2010	New EU target