

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

| Pollutant | Applies | Objective | Concentration measured as | Date to be achieved by (and maintained thereafter) | European Obligations | Date to be achieved (by and maintained thereafter) |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Particles (PM ₁₀) | UK | 50 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year | 24 hour mean | 31 December 2004 | 50 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year | 1 January 2005 |
| | UK | 40 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 31 December 2004 | 40 µg/m ³ | 1 January 2005 |
| | Indicative 2010 objectives for PM ₁₀ (from the 2000 strategy and Addendum) have been replaced by an exposure reduction approach for PM _{2.5} (except in Scotland – see below) | | | | | |
| | Scotland | 50 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 7 times a year | 24 hour mean | 31 December 2010 | 50 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year | 1 January 2005 |
| | Scotland | 18 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 31 December 2010 | 40 µg/m ³ | 1 January 2005 |
| Particles (PM _{2.5}) | UK (except Scotland) | 20 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 1 January 2020 | Stage 1 Limit - 25 µg/m ³ | 1 January 2015 |
| | Scotland | 10 µg/m ³ | | 31 December 2020 | Stage 2 Limit - 20 µg/m ³ | 1 January 2020 |
| Exposure Reduction | UK urban areas | Target of 15% reduction in concentrations at urban background | | Between 2010 and 2020 | Target of 20% reduction in concentrations at urban background. | Between 2010 and 2020 |

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|----------------------------------|---------|--|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Nitrogen dioxide | UK | 200 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year | 1 hour mean | 31 December 2005 | 200 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year | 1 January 2010 |
| | UK | 40 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 31 December 2005 | 40 µg/m ³ | 1 January 2010 |
| Ozone | UK | 100 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 10 times a year | 8 hour mean | 31 December 2005 | Target of 120 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded by more than 25 times a year averaged over 3 years | 31 December 2010 |
| Sulphur dioxide | UK | 266 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year | 15 minute mean | 31 December 2005 | - | - |
| | UK | 350 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year | 1 hour mean | 31 December 2004 | 350 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year | 1 January 2005 |
| | UK | 125 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year | 24 hour mean | 31 December 2004 | 125 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year | 1 January 2005 |
| Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons | UK | 0.25 ng/m ³ B[a]P | as annual average | 31 December 2012 | 1.0 ng/m ³ | 31 December 2012 |

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|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Benzene | UK | 16.25 µg/m ³ | running annual mean | 31 December 2003 | - | - |
| | England and Wales | 5 µg/m ³ | annual average | 31 December 2010 | 5 µg/m ³ | 1 January 2010 |
| | Scotland, Northern Ireland | 3.25 µg/m ³ | running annual mean | 31 December 2010 | - | - |
| 1,3-butadiene | UK | 2.25 µg/m ³ | running annual mean | 31 December 2003 | - | - |
| Carbon monoxide | UK | 10 mg/m ³ | maximum daily running 8 hour mean/in Scotland as running 8 hour mean | 31 December 2003 | 10 mg/m ³ | 1 January 2005 |
| Lead | UK | 0.5 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 31 December 2004 | 0.5 µg/m ³ | 1 January 2005 |
| | | 0.25 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 31 December 2008 | - | - |

National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems

| Pollutant | Applies | Objective | Concentration measured as | Date to be achieved by (and maintained thereafter) | European Obligations | Date to be achieved by (and maintained thereafter) |
|--|---------|---|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Nitrogen oxides | UK | 30 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 31 December 2000 | 30 µg/m ³ | 19 July 2001 |
| Sulphur dioxide | UK | 20 µg/m ³ | annual mean | 31 December 2000 | 20 µg/m ³ | 19 July 2001 |
| | UK | 20 µg/m ³ | winter average | 31 December 2000 | 20 µg/m ³ | 19 July 2001 |
| Ozone: protection of vegetation and ecosystems | UK | Target value of 18,000 µg/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 18,000 µg/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 |