

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	Indicative 2010 objectives for PM ₁₀ (from the 2000 strategy and Addendum) have been replaced by an exposure reduction approach for PM _{2.5} (except in Scotland – see below)					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
Particles (PM _{2.5}) (Population Exposure Reduction Target)*	England	Target of 35% reduction in population exposure compared with the average population exposure baseline period (2016 – 2018)	population exposure reduction	31st December 2040	---	---
Particles (PM _{2.5}) (Annual Mean Concentration Target)*	England	10 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded at any relevant monitoring station	annual mean	31st December 2040	---	---

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

* see PM2.5 Targets page for more information: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/pm25-targets>

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)
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

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)
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