

**AIR QUALITY LIMIT VALUES AND ALERT THRESHOLDS AS
SPECIFIED IN SI 271 OF 2002**

Limit Values For Sulphur Dioxide

Alert Threshold For Sulphur Dioxide

Limit Values For Nitrogen Dioxide And Oxides of Nitrogen

Alert Threshold For Nitrogen Dioxide

Limit Values For Particulate Matter

Limit Value For Lead

Limit Value For Benzene

Limit Value For Carbon Monoxide

LIMIT VALUES SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

	Averaging Period	Limit Value & Operative Date	Margin of Tolerance
Hourly Limit Value for the Protection of human health	1 hour	350 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a calendar year. 1st January 2005	90 µg/m ³ from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2003 and every 12 months thereafter by 30 µg/m ³ to reach 0 µg/m ³ .
Daily Limit Value for the protection of human health	24 hours	125 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a calendar year. 1st January 2005	None
Limit Value for the protection of ecosystems	Calendar year and winter (1 st October to 31 st March)	20 µg/m ³ 17th June 2002	None

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ALERT THRESHOLD FOR SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

500 µg/m³ measured over 3 consecutive hours at locations representative of air quality over at least 100 km² or specified air quality management zones, whichever is the smaller.

LIMIT VALUES FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂) AND OXIDES OF NITROGEN (NO_x)

	Averaging Period	Limit Value & Operative Date	Margin of Tolerance
Hourly limit value for the protection of human health	1 hour	200 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a calendar year 1st January 2010	40% from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2003 and every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0%.
Annual limit value for the protection of human health	Calendar year	40 µg/m ³ NO ₂ 1st January 2010	40% from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2003 and every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0%.
Annual limit value for the protection of vegetation	Calendar year	30 µg/m ³ NO _x 17th June 2002	None

ALERT THRESHOLD FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂)

400 µg/m³ NO₂ measured over 3 consecutive hours at locations representative of air quality over at least 100 km² or specified air quality management zones, whichever is the smaller.

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LIMIT VALUES FOR PARTICULATE MATTER (PM₁₀)

STAGE 1 (2005)

	Averaging Period	Limit Value & Operative Date	Margin of Tolerance
24 hour limit value for the protection of human health	24 hours	50 µg/m ³ PM ₁₀ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a calendar year. 1st January 2005	30% from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2003 and every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0%.
Annual limit value for the protection of human health	Calendar year	40 µg/m ³ PM ₁₀ 1st January 2005	12% from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2003 and every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0%.

STAGE 2 (2010)

	Averaging Period	Limit Value & Operative Date	Margin of Tolerance
24 hour limit value for the protection of human health	24 hours	50 µg/m ³ PM ₁₀ not to be exceeded more than 7 times a calendar year. 1st January 2005	Not to be exceeded more than 28 times by 1 st January 2006, 21 times by 1 st January 2007, 14 times by 1 st January 2008, 7 times by 1 st January 2009 and zero times by 1 st January 2010
Annual limit value for the protection of human health	Calendar year	20 µg/m ³ PM ₁₀ 1st January 2010	50% from 1 st January 2005, reducing every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0%.

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LIMIT VALUE FOR LEAD

	Averaging Period	Limit Value & Operative Date	Margin of Tolerance
Annual limit value for the protection of human health	Calendar year	0.5 µg/m ³ 1st January 2005	60% from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2003 and every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0%.

LIMIT VALUE FOR BENZENE

	Averaging Period	Limit Value & Operative Date	Margin of Tolerance
Limit value for the protection of human health	Calendar year	5 µg/m ³ 1st January 2010	5 µg/m ³ from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2006 and every 12 months thereafter by 1 µg/m ³ to reach 0 µg/m ³ .

LIMIT VALUE FOR CARBON MONOXIDE

	Averaging Period	Limit Value & Operative Date	Margin of Tolerance
Limit value for the protection of human health	Maximum daily 8-hour mean	10 mg/m ³ 1st January 2005	6 mg/m ³ from the date of entry into force of these Regulations, reducing on 1 st January 2003 and every 12 months thereafter by 2 mg/m ³ to reach 0 mg/m ³ .

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