

## Chapter NR 155

## AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

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**NR 155.01 Definitions.** (1) **AIR POLLUTION.** The presence in the atmosphere of one or more air contaminants in such quantities and of such duration as is or tends to be injurious to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property, or water quality, or would unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property, or would reduce the visibility on public roads, waterways and harbors, so as to create hazard, or would interfere with the safe operation of aircraft or an airport.

(2) **AIR REGION.** An area designated by federal law in which a program of air pollution control is implemented on a regional basis.

(3) **AIR STANDARD.** The maximum level of any air contaminant existing in the ambient air during a stated period of time as adopted by the natural resources board.

(4) **AMBIENT AIR.** The open air or atmosphere exterior to buildings.

(5) **EMISSION.** Release of air contaminants into the ambient air.

(6) **GAS.** A gas or gaseous mixture other than the ambient air.

(7) **MIST.** A suspension of liquid in any gas or the ambient air.

(8) **ODOR.** That property of an air contaminant that affects the sense of smell.

(9) **PARTICULATE MATTER.** Any material that exists as a solid.

(10) **PERSON.** Any owner, tenant, lessee, individual, partnership, association, syndicate, company, firm, trust, corporation, government corporation, cooperative, department, bureau, agency, or other entity.

(11) **SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER.** Solids suspended in the ambient air.

(12) **TOXIC.** Having a poisonous or deleterious effect on human, plant, or animal life.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1970, No. 176, eff. 9-1-70.

**NR 155.02 Guidelines for application of standards.** (1) **GOALS.** The achievement and maintenance of desired air quality as expressed by air standards is the intended result of applying these and other rules of the department and those of county or local control programs, which are equally or more stringent and restrictive, and the use of long-range plans to manage air quality on a regional basis. Air standards do not assure air quality since population, transportation, commercial and industrial levels are always changing. A constant and flexible effort is required to maintain the air standards.

(2) **ENFORCEMENT.** (a) *Air regions.* All persons within an air region are required to limit their emissions to at least the standards of the air pollution control rules, Wis. Adm. Code chapter NR 154, and to such greater extent as required by more stringent or restrictive local ordinances. In addition, special orders, which are not general in application, may be issued where appropriate in cases where no quan-

titative emission limit exists in the air pollution control rules of chapter NR 154 for a pollutant which is covered by an air standard. Characteristics of fuels and raw materials may be prescribed by the department for existing and planned facilities.

1. Hearings, orders and appeals. See Wis. Adm. Code section NR 154.12, air pollution control rules.

2. Penalties. See section 144.57, Wis. Stats.

(b) *Outside of air regions.* Where air quality data or the evaluation of emissions or plans indicate emissions in a localized area are or will be the cause of exceeding air standards currently in effect in designated air regions having similar characteristics, the department may require appropriate control measures in accordance with section NR 155.02 (2) (a).

(c) *Existing air quality better than adopted standards.* Where existing air quality is better than adopted standards, the standards shall not be interpreted to permit a significant degradation of local or regional air quality.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1970, No. 176, eff. 9-1-70.

**NR 155.03 Air standards. (2) AIR REGIONS.** (a) *Milwaukee air region.* The area designated under provisions of the clean air act of 1967, public law 90-148, consisting of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties.

1. Particulate matter. a. Maximum suspended, total.

1) Annual average, geometric: 75 micrograms per cubic meter.

2) Daily average: 200 micrograms per cubic meter as a daily average not to be exceeded more than 1% of the time on annual basis.

3) The daily value: 260 micrograms per cubic meter.

2. Gases. a. Maximum sulfur oxides.

1) Annual average, geometric: .025 parts per million (72 micrograms per cubic meter).

2) 24 Hours: .10 parts per million (286 micrograms per cubic meter) not to be exceeded more than 1% of the time.

3) 1 Hour: .42 parts per million (1191 micrograms per cubic meter).

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1970, No. 176, eff. 9-1-70.

**NR 155.04 Measurement of air quality. (1) GENERAL.** Measurement of air quality shall be conducted as prescribed in this section. Alternate methods may be used as authorized by the department.

(2) **PARTICULATE MATTER.** (a) *Suspended, total.* Samples shall be collected on an 8 x 10-inch filter while drawing 30 to 70 cubic feet per minute through the filter during a 24-hour period. The filter shall be weighed before and after sampling with suitable control of moisture conditions.

(3) **GASES.** (a) *Sulfur oxides.* Acceptable methods of analyses are the electro-conductivity, the hydrogen peroxide, and the West-Gaeke colorimetric methods.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1970, No. 176, eff. 9-1-70.

**NR 155.08 Severability. (1)** Should any section, paragraph, phrase, sentence, or clause of this chapter be declared invalid or unconstitutional for any reason, the remainder of this chapter shall not be affected thereby.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1970, No. 176, eff. 9-1-70.

Register, September, 1970, No. 177  
Environmental protection