

APPENDIX 14.1

This appendix provides details of current standards and objectives for air quality in Scotland and the UK generated under the Air Quality Strategy 2000 and as amended in the Addendum published in 2003.

Air Quality Standards and Objectives

The UK Air Quality Strategy provides details of national air quality standards and objectives for eight pollutants. The standards define the level of pollution below which health effects are unlikely to be experienced. These values are based upon recommendations made by the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards (EPAQS). The objectives are targets for air pollution levels, which take account of the costs and benefits of achieving the standard.

Local authorities have a responsibility (under the Environment Act 1995) to review and assess local pollution levels against these objectives. Where they anticipate that objectives may be breached in areas under their control, they are required to designate such areas as an "air quality management area" (AQMA) and develop an action plan to improve pollution levels. There is no statutory obligation to ensure air pollution levels are below this level.

The regulations implementing air quality objectives for Scotland include:

- The Air Quality Limit Values (Scotland) Regulations 2001
- The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002

Table A13.2.1 Air Quality Standards and Objectives

UK objectives					EU objectives	
Pollutant	Applies	Concentration	Measured as	Compliance	Concentration	Date
Benzene	All UK	16.25µg/m3 (5ppb)	Running annual mean	31 Dec 2003	5µg/m3	2010
	Eng & Wales	5µg/m3 (1.5ppb)	Annual mean	31 Dec 2010		
	Scotland	3.25µg/m3 (1ppb)		31 Dec 2010		
1,3-Butadiene	All UK	2.25µg/m3 (1ppb)	Running annual mean	31 Dec 2003	N/a	N/a
Carbon monoxide	All UK	10mg/3 (8.6ppm)	Maximum daily running 8 hour mean	31 Dec 2003	10mg/m3	2005
Nitrogen dioxide (prov)	All UK	200µg/m3 (105ppb)	1 hour mean, 18 exceedences	31 Dec 2003	200µg/m3 (18 exceedences)	2010
		40µg/m3 (21ppb)	Annual mean	31 Dec 2005	40µg/m3	2010
Particles (PM10) (gravimetric)	UK	50µg/m3	24 hr mean, 35 exceedences	31 Dec 2004	50µg/m3 (35 exceedences)	2005
		40µg/m3	Annual mean	31 Dec 2004	40µg/m3	2005
	Scotland	50µg/m3	24 hr mean, 7 exceedences	21 Dec 2010	50µg/m3 (7exceedences)	2010
		18µg/m3	Annual mean	31 Dec 2010	20µg/m3	2010
Sulphur dioxide	All UK	350µg/m3 (132ppb)	1 hr mean not to be exceeded	31 Dec 2004	350µg/m3 (24 exceedences)	2005
		125µg/m3 (47ppb)	24 hr mean not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	31 Dec 2004	125µg/m3 (3 exceedences)	2005
		266µg/m3 (100ppb)	15 min mean not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	31 Dec 2005		

Source: :Air Quality Management February 2003