

National air quality objectives and European Directive limit and target values for the protection of human health						
Pollutant	Applies	Objective	Concentration measured as ¹⁰	Date to be achieved by (and maintained thereafter)	European Obligations	Date to be achieved (by and maintained thereafter)
Particulates (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	Indicative 2010 objectives for PM ₁₀ (from the 2000 strategy and Addendum) have been replaced by an exposure reduction approach for PM _{2.5} (except in Scotland – see below)					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
Particulates (PM _{2.5}) Exposure Reduction	UK (except Scotland)	25 µg/m ³	annual mean	2020	Target value - 25 µg/m ³	2010
	Scotland	10 µg/m ³		31 December 2020	Limit value - 25 µg/m ³	1 January 2015
	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 ¹	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