

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

2468

Pursuant to Article 30, Paragraph 2 of the Air Protection Act (Official Gazette 178/2004), the Government of the Republic of Croatia at its session on 3 November 2005, passed the

REGULATION

ON ALERT TRESHOLDS FOR POLLUTANTS IN AIR

Article 1

This Regulation prescribes alert thresholds for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone in air, and special measures for the protection of human health and the environment which are to be taken on their occurrence.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Regulation, the subsequent terms shall have the following meanings:

- (1) alert threshold means a level of pollution which if exceeded represents danger to human health from brief exposure, at the occurrence of which it shall be necessary to urgently undertake appropriate prescribed measures;
- (2) information threshold means a level beyond which there is danger to human health from brief exposure for specific sensitive sections of the population and at which up-to-date information is necessary;
- (3) fixed measurement stations means stations at which permanent air quality monitoring within the state and /or local network is carried out;
- (4) air quality data means the value of each measured, calculated or estimated variable used for determining the quality of air;
- (5) oxides of nitrogen means the sum of nitric oxide content and nitrogen dioxide content which is expressed as mass concentration of nitrogen dioxide;
- (6) component means one of the dimensions which determine the comprehensive meaning of alert thresholds (e.g., level, statistical parameter, averaging period, monitoring period);
- (7) averaging period means time period of prescribed duration, during which the average value per time presents individual value of pollution level;
- (8) monitoring period means time period of prescribed duration, from which individual pollution level values make a set for determining statistical parameters.
- (9) statistical parameter means chosen statistics of collectively assessed pollution levels.

Article 3

- (1) Alert thresholds for sulphur dioxide expressed as SO₂ and oxides of nitrogen expressed as NO₂ in air are:

Pollutant	Averaging period	Alert threshold
SO ₂	three-hour moving average	500 µg m ⁻³
NO ₂	three-hour moving average	400 µg m ⁻³

(2) The exceedance of the alert threshold for pollutants referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article must be measured at least over three consecutive hours.

Article 4

(1) Alert and information thresholds for ozone in air are:

	Averaging period	Threshold
Information threshold	one-hour average	180 µg m ⁻³
Alert threshold	one-hour average	240 µg m ⁻³

(2) The exceedance of the alert threshold for ozone in air referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article must be measured or predicted for three consecutive hours.

Article 5

(1) Evaluation of alert thresholds for SO₂ and NO₂ and the alert and information thresholds for ozone in air shall be carried out according to Croatian standards and / or methods providing comparable results.

(2) Measurement results may be compared to prescribed alert and information thresholds only if pollution levels are assessed according to special legislation.

Article 6

The monitoring of alert and information thresholds shall be carried out at stations within the state and local network for permanent air quality monitoring according to the Programme for air quality monitoring in the state network for permanent air quality monitoring and the programmes for measuring air quality in the local networks for permanent air quality monitoring.

Article 7

If the information or alert thresholds for ozone in air are exceeded in the area along the state border, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction shall inform the competent authority in the neighbouring state thereof.

Article 8

(1) In the event of exceedance of the alert threshold referred to in Article 3 Paragraph 1 and the information or alert threshold referred to in Article 4 Paragraph 1 of this Regulation, the governments of the City of Zagreb, town or municipality in whose territory the exceedance has occurred are obligated to take prescribed special measures for the protection of human health and the environment and determine the manner of their execution according to the Environmental Protection Intervention Plan.

(2) Special measures for the protection of human health and the environment which are to be taken on the occurrence of alert and information thresholds are provided for in Annex 1 to this Regulation.

(3) The governments of the City of Zagreb, town and municipality are obligated to ensure that the information on the occurrence of alert and information threshold is provided to the public by means of media several times a day.

(4) The governments of the City of Zagreb, town and municipality shall announce, through the media, the cessation of the alert threshold and information threshold.

Article 9

The following information is to be supplied to the public when the alert threshold for SO₂ and NO₂ in the air is exceeded:

- (a) the date, hour and place of the occurrence,
- (b) reasons for the occurrence (where known),
- (c) any forecast of:
 - changes in concentrations (improvement, stabilisation, or deterioration) together with the reasons for those changes (where known),
 - the area in which alert thresholds are exceeded,
 - the duration of the occurrence of the alert threshold,
- (d) the portion of population potentially endangered by the occurrence of the alert threshold,
- (e) precaution measures which should be taken by the population at risk.

Article 10

In the event of exceedance of the information or alert threshold for the ozone in air or when such exceedance is predicted, the following information is to be supplied to the public:

- (a) data on the observed exceedance or exceedances;
 - location or area of exceedance,
 - type of threshold exceeded (information or alert)
 - start time and duration of the exceedance,
 - highest 1-hour and 8-hour mean concentration,
- (b) forecast for the following afternoon/ day(s):
 - area of the expected exceedance of information and/or alert threshold,

- expected change in pollution (improvement, stabilisation, or deterioration),
- (c) data on population groups at risk, possible health effects and recommended conduct:
 - data on population groups at risk,
 - description of likely symptoms,
 - measures of precaution recommended to population groups at risk,
 - where to find additional information,
- (d) information on preventive measures to reduce pollution and/or exposure to pollution:
 - state the main pollution sources,
 - recommended action to reduce emissions.

Article 11

Annex 1 with corresponding content shall be published along with this Regulation and shall be a constituent part thereof.

Article 12

This Regulation shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force on 1 January 2006.

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Zagreb, 3 November 2005

Vice President of the Government and Minister for the Family, Veterans' Affairs and
Intergenerational Solidarity
Jadranka Kosor, m.p.

ANNEX I

SPECIAL MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO BE TAKEN ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ALERT AND INFORMATION THRESHOLDS

A. Warnings and advice to population:

- call upon the population groups at risk to pay attention so as not to, through their conduct and activities, contribute to air pollution;
- recommend not to use fossil fuel indoor heating equipment, in particular those without an efficient smoke gases exhaust system;
- to use for cooking, whenever it is possible, electric cookers and ovens instead of gas cookers and solid fuel cookers;
- not to smoke in residential and work premises;
- to postpone cleaning with products containing corrosive chemicals and solvents, repairs involving glue, paints, varnishes, the use of insecticides and all other operations and activities that are not urgent or necessary, which cause indoor air pollution, considering that premises cannot be aired by opening windows;
- recommend not to use mechanical ventilation by means of which air is injected into premises, and not to open windows;
- recommend that small children, pregnant women, the elderly, chronic patients, persons in poor health and sensitive persons do not go out in the street at the time of a critical situation.

B. Restrictions and bans:

(1) Restriction or ban on the use of motor vehicles in a specific area, excluding:

- public transport and taxi vehicles;
- vehicles for persons with disabilities;
- official vehicles used by the police, army, railway and post service, vehicles intended for supply of citizens with basic necessities;
- fire service vehicles, ambulances, vehicles intended for transport of patients and doctors and medicine.

During a traffic ban, the ban signs must be placed in streets and roads accessing the area at risk.

(2) Stationary sources which shall be reported as potential sources of air pollution:

- for the duration of the alert pollution threshold, furnaces exceeding 1MW_{top} which do not apply desulphurisation of smoke gasses should use heating oil with up to 0.5% sulphur content, and gaseous or liquefied fuels;
- a production process should be carefully run and supervised so as to prevent any air pollution that may be avoided;
- postpone the execution of all operations that may pollute the air and are not urgent or necessary;
- where appropriate, temporarily suspend operation of a plant without putting at risk the safety of workers and the environment or causing damage that is beyond repair or far greater than gain, or causing more harmful emissions on the occasion of suspension of the plant than are those emitted during its normal operation.