

Proposed SO₂ Standards Bullet Sheet

Docket Number: EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0352

Topic: Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

EPA is limited to receiving comments regarding:

1. The scientific approach used to determine the new SO₂ standard.
2. The monitoring requirements that the new SO₂ standard will establish.

Establishing the SO₂ Standard

- Making comments on a range -
 - Current SO₂ standard is 140 ppb over 24 hours, and 30 ppb over an entire year.
 - Asked to comment on SO₂ standard as a range from 50 ppb to 100 ppb measured over a 1 hour.
 - Range based on health studies.
 - HGB area may become nonattainment if lower range (50 ppb) is used, but should be in compliance if upper range (100 ppb) is used.
- Annual standards to be replaced with either -
 - 3 year average of the 99th percentile of concentration.
 - 3 year average of the 4th highest daily maximum concentration.

The Monitoring Process

- Expansion of the monitoring system-
 - Increase in Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA).
 - Possibility of multiple monitors at one source oriented site.
 - States will be required to place additional monitors throughout their state.
 - All new monitors should be functional by Jan. 2013.
- Determining monitoring location-
 - EPA sets minimum requirements to guide monitor location.
 - States determine the location of additional State monitors, with EPA's approval.
 - EPA may establish additional monitoring sites in areas impacted by major industrial point sources.
 - EPA may establish additional monitoring sites in areas with a combination of point sources that are not already monitored.
- Expansion of data collection-
 - 5 minute averages to produce 2 concentration values for each hour (maximum 5 minute and 1 hour average).
 - No 5 minute primary standard is being proposed.
- Designation of nonattainment areas-
 - Standard is adopted no later than June 2010.
 - Nonattainment areas established in 2012 (with an additional year for further data).
 - SO₂ appears to be localized in the HGB area. Establishing the entire region or a subregion as nonattainment rests on the recommendation of the Governor.