

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINE  
FOR  
Air Quality—Sulphur Dioxide  
And Suspended Particulates



## **GUIDELINE: AIR QUALITY - SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND SUSPENDED PARTICULATES**

**AS AMENDED BY:**

### **USE OF GUIDELINE**

*A guideline is not law and is therefore not enforceable. It does however, assist an inspector to determine what action(s) may be required of him. Paragraph 2.2 (c) of the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT allows the Minister to develop co-ordinate and administer guidelines. The Act [subsection 5(1)] makes it an offence to discharge a contaminant into the environment, subject to some exceptions [subsection 5(3)]. When a discharge occurs and it is inconsistent with the guideline, the discharge is considered an unacceptable risk. The inspector may then consider issuing an order or laying an Information.*

*A guideline allows for some leniency in applying the law. A court would probably be inclined to consider the application of a guideline favourably because the public is aware of the standards they are expected to meet.*

This Guideline is not law.  
It is prepared by Environmental Protection Service,  
Department of Sustainable Development  
Government of the Nunavut

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# **GUIDELINE: AIR QUALITY SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND SUSPENDED PARTICULATES**

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# GUIDELINE RESPECTING AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATE IN NUNAVUT

## 1 Introduction

This Guideline is established under the *Environmental Protection Act* and sets standards respecting the maximum desirable levels of sulphur dioxide and total suspended particulates in ambient air throughout all of the NWT / Nunavut. These standards will be applied as a long term goal.

These standards will be applied to assessing the acceptability of emissions from proposed and existing developments. Any actions to maintain or improve air quality will include consideration of factors such as the frequency and magnitude of exceedances the size of the affected area, availability of control options and environmental, human health and social-economic impacts.

## 2 Definitions

<b>Ambient Air</b>	The air surrounding the earth, but does not include the air within a structure or within any underground space.
<b>Chief Environmental Protection Officer</b>	The Chief Environmental Protection Officer appointed under subsection 3(1) of the Environmental Protection Act.
<b>Standard Conditions</b>	A temperature of 25 degrees Celsius and a pressure of 101.3 kilopascals absolute.
<b>Total Suspended Particulate (TSP)</b>	A general term which applies to a wide variety of solid or liquid particles of a size and configuration such that they tend to remain suspended in the air and can thus be drawn into the respiratory passages.

## 3 Standards

Sulphur Dioxide micrograms per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )			TSP micrograms per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	
annual 30	24 hr 150	1 hour 450	annual 60	24 hour 120

All ambient air quality measurements will be referenced to standard conditions.

Measurements for all reporting periods for sulphur dioxide and 24 hour TSP will be reported as arithmetic means. Annual TSP measurements will be reported as geometric means.

The Chief Environmental Protection Officer may request that ambient air measurements will be made in a specified manner.

If you would like to be placed on a mailing list to receive guideline amendments or for public consultation on Environmental Protection Service legislation please fill this out and mail or fax to:

Environmental Protection Service  
Department of Sustainable Development  
P.O. Box 1000, Station 1195  
Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0  
Fax: (867) 975-5990

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