

40 CFR Appendix L to Part 51, Example Regulations for Prevention of Air Pollution Emergency Episodes

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Appendix L to Part 51 - Example Regulations for Prevention of Air Pollution Emergency Episodes

The example regulations presented herein reflect generally recognized ways of preventing air pollution from reaching levels that would cause imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of persons. States are required under subpart H to have emergency episodes plans but they are not required to adopt the regulations presented herein.

1.0 Air pollution emergency. This regulation is designed to prevent the excessive buildup of air pollutants during air pollution episodes, thereby preventing the occurrence of an emergency due to the effects of these pollutants on the health of persons.

1.1 Episode criteria. Conditions justifying the proclamation of an air pollution alert, air pollution warning, or air pollution emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever the Director determines that the accumulation of air pollutants in any place is attaining or has attained levels which could, if such levels are sustained or exceeded, lead to a substantial threat to the health of persons. In making this determination, the Director will be guided by the following criteria:

(a) Air Pollution Forecast: An internal watch by the Department of Air Pollution Control shall be actuated by a National Weather Service advisory that Atmospheric Stagnation Advisory is in effect or the equivalent local forecast of stagnant atmospheric condition.

(b) Alert: The Alert level is that concentration of pollutants at which first stage control actions is to begin. An Alert will be declared when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site:

SO² - 800 µg/m³ (0.3 p.p.m.), 24-hour average.

PM¹⁰ - 350 µg/m³, 24-hour average.

CO - 17 mg/m³ (15 p.p.m.), 8-hour average.

Ozone (O²) = 400 µg/m³ (0.2 ppm)-hour average.

NO²-1130 µg/m³ (0.6 p.p.m.), 1-hour average, 282 µg/m³ (0.15 p.p.m.), 24-hour average.

In addition to the levels listed for the above pollutants, meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at the above levels for twelve (12) or more hours or increase, or in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken.

(c) Warning: The warning level indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade and that additional control actions are necessary. A warning will be declared when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site:

SO² - 1,600 µg/m³ (0.6 p.p.m.), 24-hour average.

PM¹⁰ - 420 µg/m³, 24-hour average.

CO - 34 mg/m³ (30 p.p.m.), 8-hour average.

Ozone (O³) - 800 µg/m³ (0.4 p.p.m.), 1-hour average.

NO² - 2,260 µg/m³ (1.2 ppm) - 1-hour average; 565 µg/m³ (0.3 ppm), 24-hour average.

In addition to the levels listed for the above pollutants, meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at the above levels for twelve (12) or more hours or increase, or in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken.

(d) Emergency: The emergency level indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade toward a level of significant harm to the health of persons and that the most stringent control actions are necessary. An emergency will be declared when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site:

SO² - 2,100 µg/m³ (0.8 p.p.m.), 24-hour average.

PM¹⁰ - 500 µg/m³, 24-hour average.

CO - 46 mg/m³ (40 p.p.m.), 8-hour average.

Ozone (O³) - 1,000 µg/m³ (0.5 p.p.m.), 1-hour average.

NO²-3,000 µg/m³ (1.6 ppm), 1-hour average; 750 µg/m³ (0.4 ppm), 24-hour average.

In addition to the levels listed for the above pollutants, meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at the above levels for twelve (12) or more hours or increase, or in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken.

(e) Termination: Once declared, any status reached by application of these criteria will remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met. At such time, the next lower status will be assumed.