

Current air quality legislation and policy (International and European)

Legislation	Main requirements	How it may affect the consideration of air in plan-making and SEA
<p>2008 – Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (Directive 2008/50/EC) (CAFÉ Directive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merges Framework Directive 96/62/EC, 1 – 3 Daughter Directives 1999/30/EC, 2000/69/EC and 2002/3/EC streamlining and reducing the volumes of existing legislation. • Scotland and Northern Ireland are required to comply with the legally binding limit values and alert thresholds. • New air quality objective for PM_{2.5} (particulate matter which is less than 2.5 microns) including limit value and exposure concentration and exposure reduction target. • Assessment, improvement and maintenance of ambient air quality. • Setting of the limit values and alert thresholds for ambient air. • Setting methods for measuring ambient air quality. • Establish limit values for sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter, lead, benzene, carbon monoxide and long-term objectives for ozone to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment. • To assess concentrations on the basis of common methods and criteria • To obtain adequate information on concentrations and make it available to the public. • To promote increased co-operation and transboundary measures to reduce ozone levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration should be given to any significant changes to emissions of the pollutants covered by the Directive (or substances that give rise to formation of ground-level ozone). • Particularly relevant to regional national level Plans or Plans associated with activities potentially causing exceedances or emission of the pollutants e.g. transport, energy, industry, etc.

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2004 – Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air (to be merged with the CAFE Directive at a later date)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish target values to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment. To assess concentrations on the basis of common methods and criteria. To obtain adequate information on concentrations and make it available to the public. Maintain ambient air quality and improve it in other cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration should be given to any significant changes in emissions of the pollutants covered by the Directive. Particularly relevant to regional or national level Plans or Plans associated with activities that may contribute to emissions of the four pollutants e.g. transport, energy, industry, etc.
2001 – Directive 2001/81/EC on National Emissions Ceilings	<p>Sets upper limits for each Member State for the total emissions in 2010 of the four key air pollutants responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone creation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sulphur dioxide; Oxides of nitrogen; Volatile organic compounds; and Ammonia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration should be given to any significant changes in emissions of the four key air pollutants that the Plan may bring about. Particularly relevant to regional national level Plans or Plans associated with activities that may contribute to emissions of the four pollutants e.g. transport, energy, industry, agriculture, etc.
1999 – Landfill Directive 99/31/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment (particularly water, soil, air & human health) from the landfilling of waste, by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration should be given to how the Plan will harmonise measures on waste disposal/ landfilling throughout the community. Consideration of fugitive emissions from landfill sites on a strategic level.
1979 – UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legally binding instrument to deal with issues of long range air pollution. Establishes principles for international cooperation on air pollution abatement. Sets up an institutional framework for research and policy development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration should be given to the effect that the Plan may have on transboundary air pollution, particularly with respect to objectives and targets established in the eight protocols to the convention.