

Examples of typical environmental protection objectives relevant to air

Source	Environmental protection objective
European	
Directive 1999/30/EC relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air (superseded May 2008*)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish limit values and, as appropriate, alert thresholds for concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air intended to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole; To assess concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air on the basis of common methods and criteria; To obtain adequate information on concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air and ensure that it is made available to the public; and To maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases with respect to sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead.
UK	
Environment Act 1995	To implement international agreements relating to quality of air.
National	
Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed penalty) (Scotland) Regulations 2003	To ensure vehicle emissions do not exceed prescribed limits.
Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981	To prevent air pollution and make it an offence to cause or permit emissions of dark smoke or burn unauthorised fuel on farm businesses.

Notes:

This table provides a framework to illustrate how this guidance could be used.

* Note the new Directive doesn't supersede previous ones until it is incorporated into national law which means that EU AQ limits apply to all locations until the new Directive introduces the concept of exposure reduction.