

Fact Sheet: EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone

On March 12, 2008, EPA significantly strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. The revised 8-hour standard (for both primary and secondary) is .075 parts per million (ppm). The previous standard was .084 ppm.

- These revisions reflect new scientific evidence about ozone and its effects on public health and the environment
 - Primary standard protects public health, including the health of “sensitive” populations such as people with asthma, children, and older adults.
 - Secondary standard to protect public welfare and the environment, including sensitive vegetation and ecosystems.
- The law requires EPA to review the scientific information and the standards for each pollutant every five years, and to obtain advice from the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) on each review.
- Different considerations apply to setting NAAQS than to achieving them.
 - Setting NAAQS: health and environmental effects.
 - Achieving NAAQS: account for cost, technical feasibility, time needed to attain.

Expected Implementation Timeline for Revised Ozone NAAQS

Milestone	Date
Signature – Final Rule	March 12, 2008
State Designation Recommendation to EPA	No later than March 12, 2009
Final Designations	No later than March 12, 2010*
Attainment Demonstration SIPs Due	2013*
Attainment Dates	2013 – 2030 (depends on severity of problem)

*In the event the administrator has insufficient information to promulgate the descriptions by March 12, 2010, the date of final designations may be extended up to one year, but no later than March 12, 2011. SIPs will be due three years from final designations.

Revised Ozone AQI

EPA is adjusting the 100-level, which is the upper end of the “moderate” category, to equal the new 0.075 ppm standard, and making proportional changes to other AQI values.

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Category	AQI Value	1997 8-hour (ppm)	2008 8-hour (ppm)
Good	0-50	0.000-0.064	0.000-0.059
Moderate	51-100	0.065-0.084	0.060-0.075
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	0.085-0.104	0.076-0.095
Unhealthy	151-200	0.105-0.124	0.096-0.115
Very Unhealthy	201-300	0.125-0.374	0.116-0.374
Hazardous	301-400	No Change	No Change
	401-500	No Change	No Change