

Metro Vancouver's Ambient Air Quality Objectives

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Metro Vancouver establishes ambient air quality objectives which guide air quality management decisions. They are typically used to:

- assess and provide context to [current](#) or [historical air quality and trends](#);
- guide decisions on the [permitting of new or modified facilities](#);
- guide decisions on episode management, such as air quality advisories;
- develop long-term [air quality management strategies](#) and evaluate progress; and
- aid in the development of new regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives.

Metro Vancouver's objectives (Table 1) should not be viewed as levels to "pollute up to". They should be considered as part of the Board's commitment to *continuous improvement* in air quality.

Table 1. Metro Vancouver's Current Ambient Air Quality Objectives

Air Contaminant	Averaging Time	Ambient Air Quality Objective Levels	
		$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	parts per billion
Carbon monoxide (CO)	1-hour	30,000	26,200
	8-hour	10,000	8,700
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	1-hour	200	106
	Annual	40	21
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	1-hour	196*	75*
	24-hour	125	48
	Annual	30	11
Ozone (O ₃)	1-hour	161	82
	8-hour	128	65
Inhalable particulate matter (PM ₁₀)	24-hour	50	-
	Annual	20	-
Fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	24-hour	25	-
	Annual	8 (6)**	-
Total reduced sulphur (TRS)	1-hour (acceptable)	14	10
	1-hour (desirable)	7	5

Note: The 8-hour and 24-hour objectives are intended to be compared against concentrations calculated as a rolling average. Metro Vancouver objectives are "not to be exceeded", meaning the objective is achieved if 100% of the validated measurements are at or below the objective level.

* This 1-hour SO₂ objective is **interim** and is intended to apply to all applications for new or significantly modified discharge authorizations under GVRD Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082 made on or after May 15, 2015 but not intended to apply to existing facilities. "Significantly modified" refers to an increase in authorized quantity of emission of greater than 10%. The interim SO₂ objective will be revisited after the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment adopts a new Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standard, likely in 2016.

** Metro Vancouver's Annual PM_{2.5} Planning Goal of 6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is a longer term aspirational target to support continuous improvement.

