

## Ambient Air Quality Standards

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is adopting updates to Washington's Ambient Air Quality Standards. These updates will be submitted to EPA for inclusion into the Washington State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP is a statewide plan for meeting air quality standards.

### What is Chapter 173-476 WAC?

Chapter 173-476 WAC updates Washington's air quality standards to include current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants. These health-based standards are required by the state and federal Clean Air Acts. They protect sensitive populations including children, elderly, and people with heart and lung disease.

### Summary of the rule changes

- Adopt a new rule that contains the current NAAQS for the following air pollutants:
  - Large particles (PM<sub>10</sub>)
  - Smaller or fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)
  - Lead (Pb)
  - Sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>)
  - Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)
  - Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
  - Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Retain more stringent annual sulfur oxide state standard with a sunset provision.
- Repeal three outdated rules because the new chapter includes updated versions. They are:
  - Chapter 173-470 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter
  - Chapter 173-474 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Oxides
  - Chapter 173-475 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide, Ozone, and Nitrogen Dioxide

#### MORE INFORMATION

##### On the Web:

Ambient Air Quality Standards  
Chapter 173-476 WAC

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/rules/rules\\_laws.html#current](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/rules/rules_laws.html#current)

**Effective:** December 21, 2013

##### Contact information:

Margo Thompson  
(360) 407-6827  
[margo.thompson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:margo.thompson@ecy.wa.gov)

For special accommodations or documents in alternate format, call 360-407-6800, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

## What is the purpose of the SIP revision?

The purpose of the SIP revision is to include the updated ambient air quality standards into the SIP to meet federal Clean Air Act requirements. Ecology plans to request two actions from EPA:

- Remove Chapter 173-470 WAC from the SIP
- Approve Chapter 173-476 WAC into the SIP

Inclusion of the revised ambient air quality standards in the SIP allows Ecology to meet several requirements contained in Section 110 of the federal Clean Air Act.

## Response to Comments

Ecology's response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. Download a copy at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173470\\_474\\_475/1205.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173470_474_475/1205.html).

## Whom does this rule affect?

This rule affects:

- A broad range of commercial and industrial businesses that emit criteria pollutants.
- Local air agencies implementing the rule.
- Sensitive populations including children, elderly, and people with heart and lung disease.

## More information

Margo Thompson

Air Quality Program

P.O. Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

(360) 407-6827

[margo.thompson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:margo.thompson@ecy.wa.gov)

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the WACTrack e-mail list at [www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html).

## Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 407-6998 or [bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov).

