

Information on sulphur dioxide (SO₂)

1 Limit value

Table 1

	Averaging period	Limit value since 1 January 2005
Hourly limit value for the protection of human health	1 hour	350 µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a calendar year
Daily limit value for the protection of human health	24 hours	125 µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 3 times a calendar year
Limit value for the protection of ecosystems	Calendar year and winter (1 October to 31 March)	20 µg/m ³

The volume must be standardised at a temperature of 293 K and an atmospheric pressure of 101,3 kPa.

2 Alert threshold

If more than 500 µg/m³ are measured over three consecutive hours at locations representative of air quality over at least 100 km² or an entire zone or agglomeration, whichever is the smaller, the Member State has to apprehend adequate measures.

3 Upper and lower assessment thresholds

Table 2

	Health protection	Ecosystem protection
Upper assessment threshold	75 µg/m ³ (daily mean), not to be exceeded more than 3 times in any calendar year	12 µg/m ³ (annual mean)
Lower assessment threshold	50 µg/m ³ (daily mean), not to be exceeded more than 3 times in any calendar year	8 µg/m ³ (annual mean)

4 Reference method for the measurement of sulphur dioxide

The reference method for the measurement of sulphur dioxide is that described in EN 14212:2012 “Ambient air – Standard method for the measurement of the concentration of sulphur dioxide by ultraviolet fluorescence”.

5 Data quality objectives

Table 3

Data collection		Data quality objective	
Continuous measurement			
Uncertainty		15 %	
Minimum data capture		90 %	
Indicative measurements			
Uncertainty		25 %	
Minimum data capture		90 %	
Minimum time coverage		14 % (One day's measurement a week at random, evenly distributed over the year, or eight weeks evenly distributed over the year.)	
Modelling			
Uncertainty			
Hourly averages		50 %	
Daily averages		50 %	
Annual averages		30 %	
Objective estimation			
Uncertainty		75 %	

6 Minimum details to be made available to the public when the alert threshold for sulphur dioxide is exceeded

Details to be made available to the public should include at least:

- the date, hour, place and the reasons for the occurrence,
- any forecasts of: changes in concentrations together with the reasons for those changes,
- the geographical area concerned,
- the duration of the occurrence,
- the type of population potentially sensitive to the occurrence,
- the precautions to be taken by the sensitive population concerned.

7 Legal basis

- Directive 2008/50/EC of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (OJ EC. L 152/1)
- COMMISSION DIRECTIVE (EU) 2015/1480 of 28 August 2015 amending several annexes to Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules concerning reference methods, data validation and location of sampling points for the assessment of ambient air quality
- 39th Ordinance Implementing the Federal Immission Control Act (Ordinance on Air Quality Standards and Emission Ceilings - 39. BImSchV)