

SO₂ CAAQS

AQMS Stakeholder Advisory Group teleconference

November 16, 2016





Excerpt from Ministers Communique

October 3, 2016

As a part of the continuing implementation of the Air Quality Management System (AQMS), Ministers took action to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions. These emissions are linked to respiratory health problems, particularly for children and adults with asthma, and environmental impacts such as acid rain and smog.

Ministers announced new Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for sulphur dioxide, that will drive the improvement of air quality across the country. These standards were developed through a collaborative process that included industry associations, non-governmental organizations, indigenous organizations and governments.

The AQMS is a comprehensive and harmonized approach to air quality management across Canada that considers all sources of air pollution. Québec supports the general objectives of the AQMS, but has already implemented its own regulation and is collaborating with jurisdictions on developing some elements of the system, notably air zones and airsheds.

SO₂ CAAQS Endorsed and Announced by Ministers

Management level and action	Management levels for the 1-hour CAAQS for SO ₂ (ppb)		Management levels for the annual CAAQS for SO ₂ (ppb)	
	2020	2025	2020	2025
Red To ensure that CAAQS are not exceeded through advanced air management actions	> 70 (CAAQS)	> 65 (CAAQS)	> 5.0 (CAAQS)	> 4.0 (CAAQS)
Orange To improve air quality through active air management and prevent exceedance of the CAAQS	>50 to ≤70	> 50 to ≤ 65	> 3.0 to ≤ 5.0	> 3.0 to ≤ 4.0
Yellow To improve air quality using early and ongoing actions for continuous improvement	> 30 to ≤ 50		> 2.0 to ≤ 3.0	
Green To maintain good air quality through proactive air management measures to keep clean areas clean	≤ 30		≤ 2.0	

Statistical form of the standards

1-hour: The 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the daily-maximum 1-hour average concentrations.

Annual: The arithmetic average over a single calendar year of all 1-hour average concentrations.

Next Steps

- The Government of Canada intends to publish the new standards in the *Canada Gazette* Part I during the coming months
 - Establish them as environmental quality objectives pursuant to the authority of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*