

Metro Vancouver Ambient Air Quality Objectives (November 2024)

Metro Vancouver establishes ambient air quality objectives for the region, which are typically used to:

- Assess and provide context to [current](#) or [historical air quality and trends](#)
- Guide air management decisions, such as issuance of [air permits for new or modified facilities](#)
- Guide decisions on [air quality warnings or bulletins](#)
- Develop long-term [air quality management strategies](#) and evaluate progress
- Support development of [air quality regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives](#)

Each objective in Table 1 is considered “achieved” when the concentration of the contaminant equals or is less than the value in the table. The Metro Vancouver Board is committed to continuous improvement in air quality. While the objectives correspond to an acceptable level for each air contaminant, public health and the environment are better protected at concentrations below the objectives.

Table 1 – Metro Vancouver Ambient Air Quality Objectives

Air Contaminant	Averaging Period	Ambient Air Quality Objective ^a	
		µg/m ³	parts per billion
Carbon monoxide (CO)	1-hour	14,900	13,000
	8-hour ^b	5,700	5,000
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	1-hour ^c	79	42
	Annual ^d	22.6	12.0
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	1-hour	183	70
	Annual ^d	10.5	4.0
Ozone (O ₃)	1-hour	161	82
	8-hour ^e	118	60
Fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})	24-hour ^b	25	-
	Annual ^d	8 (6 ^f)	-
Inhalable particulate matter (PM ₁₀)	24-hour ^b	50	-
	Annual ^d	20	-
Total reduced sulphur (TRS)	1-hour (acceptable)	14	10
	1-hour (desirable)	7	5

^a Except where noted, 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.

^b Achievement based on rolling average.

^c Achievement based on annual 98th percentile of the daily maximum 1-hour concentration averaged over three consecutive years.

^d Achievement based on annual average of 1-hour concentrations over one year.

^e Achievement based on annual 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour average concentration averaged over three consecutive years.

^f Metro Vancouver’s annual PM_{2.5} planning goal of 6 µg/m³ is a longer term aspirational target to support continuous improvement.