

SUBCHAPTER 02D - AIR POLLUTION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS
SECTION .0300 AIR POLLUTION EMERGENCIES

.0301 PURPOSE

Notwithstanding any other provisions of air pollution control regulations or standards, this section is designed to prevent the excessive buildup of air contaminants during air pollution episodes thereby prevent the occurrence of an emergency due to the effects of these contaminants on the public health.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12); Eff.
February 1, 1976.

	Date Submitted to EPA	Date Approved by EPA	Federal Register
Original Reg.	Jan 27, 1972	May 31, 1972	37 FR 10884
1 st Revision	Mar 31, 1976	Jun 03, 1986	51 FR 19834

.0302 EPISODE CRITERIA

The Director may issue a proclamation of an air pollution alert, air pollution warning or air pollution emergency if the Director determines that the accumulation of air contaminants in any place is attaining or has attained levels that could, if such levels are sustained or exceeded, lead to a threat to the health of the public. In deciding whether to issue such a proclamation, the Director shall be guided by the following criteria:

(1) Alert. The alert level is that concentration of pollutants at which first stage control actions are to begin. The director/Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality with the concurrence of the Governor shall proclaim an alert when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site and meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at or exceed above levels for 12 or more hours or, in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken::

- a) sulfur dioxide - $800 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.3 ppm), 24-hour average;
- b) carbon monoxide $17 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (15 ppm), 8-hour average;
- c) ozone $400 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.2 ppm), 1-hour average;
- d) nitrogen dioxide $1130 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.6 ppm), 1-hour average; $282 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.15 ppm), 24-hour average;
- e) PM₁₀ $350 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 24-hour average;

(2)

Warning. The warning level indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade and that additional abatement actions are necessary. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality with the concurrence of the Governor shall proclaim a warning when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site and meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at or exceed above levels for 12 or more hours or, in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken: :

- a) sulfur dioxide $1600 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.6 ppm), 24-hour average;
- b) carbon monoxide $34 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (30 ppm), 8-hour average;
- c) ozone $800 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.4 ppm), 1-hour average;
- d) nitrogen dioxide $2260 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (1.2 ppm), 1-hour average; $565 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.3 ppm), 24-hour average;
- e) PM₁₀ $420 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; 24-hour average;

(3) Emergency. The emergency level indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade to a level that the most stringent control actions are necessary. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality with the concurrence of the Governor shall declare an emergency when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site and meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at or exceed above levels for 12 or more hours or, in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken::

- (a) sulfur dioxide $2100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.8 ppm), 24-hour average;
- (b) carbon monoxide $46 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (40 ppm), 8-hour average;
- (c) ozone $1000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.5 ppm), 1-hour average;
- (d) nitrogen dioxide $3000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (1.6 ppm), one-hour average; $750 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.4 ppm), 24-hour average;
- 10 (e) PM $500 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 24-hour average.

(4) Termination. After a proclamation has been issued, any level reached by application of these criteria shall remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met. At that time the next lower level shall remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143_215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12);
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1988; July 1, 1984; June 1, 1980; December 1, 1976; *Readopted
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3 rd Revision	May 02, 1980	Apr 13, 1981	46 FR 21599
4 th Revision	Apr 17, 1984	Oct 11, 1985	50 FR 41501
5 th Revision	May 02, 1989	Jan 16, 1990	55 FR 1419
6 th Revision	Jul 20, 1998	Nov 10, 1999	64 FR 61213
7 th Revision	Apr. 4, 2018	Apr. 10, 2019	84 FR 14308

.0303 EMISSION REDUCTION PLANS

(a) Air Pollution Alert. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution described in 15A NCAC 02D .0305 shall take all air pollution alert actions required for that source and shall put into effect the preplanned abatement program that is required by 15A NCAC 02D .0304 for an air pollution alert.

(b) Air Pollution Warning. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution described in 15A NCAC 02D .0306 shall take all air pollution warning actions required for that source and shall put into effect the preplanned abatement program that is required for an air pollution warning.

(c) Air Pollution Emergency. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution described in 15A NCAC 02D .0307 shall take all air pollution emergency actions required for that source and shall put into effect the preplanned abatement program that is required by 15A NCAC 02D .0304 for an air pollution emergency.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3 (a) (12);
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2 nd Revision	Apr 17, 1984	Oct 11, 1985	50 FR 41501
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.0304 PREPLANNED ABATEMENT PROGRAM

- (a) Any person who is responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution that is described in 15A NCAC 02D .0305, .0306, or .0307 or that emits 100 tons per year or more of any one pollutant shall prepare an abatement program plan to reduce the emissions of air pollutants into the outdoor atmosphere during periods of an air pollution episode as described in 15A NCAC 02D .0302. The plan shall be consistent with good industrial practices and safe operating procedures. When the director requests that the plan be submitted for his review, the owner or operator of the source shall submit the plan within 30 days of the director's request.
- (b) When requested by the commission in writing, any person responsible for the operation of a source not described in 15A NCAC 02D .0305, .0306, or .0307 shall prepare a plan, to reduce the emission of air pollutants into the outdoor atmosphere during periods of air pollution alert, air pollution warning, and air pollution emergency as described in 15A NCAC 02D .0302. The plan shall be consistent with good industrial practices and safe operating procedures.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3 (a)(12);
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3rd Revision	May 02, 1988	Dec 12, 1988	53 FR 49881
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.0305 EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN: ALERT LEVEL

(a) General.

- (1) There shall be no open burning of any material otherwise allowed under 15A NCAC 02D .1900.
- (2) The use of incinerators for the disposal of any form of solid waste shall be limited to the hours between 12 Noon and 4:00 P.M.
- (3) Persons operating fuel burning equipment which requires boiler lancing or soot blowing shall perform such operations only between the hours of 12 Noon and 4:00 P.M.
- (4) Persons operating motor vehicles should eliminate all unnecessary operations.

(b) Source Curtailment. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution shall take all required control actions for the alert level that are listed below.

- (1) Operators of coal or oil fired electric power generating facilities shall:
 - (A) use fuels having low ash and sulfur content,
 - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m., and
 - (C) divert electric power generation to facilities outside of the alert area.
- (2) Operators of coal or oil fired process steam generating facilities shall:
 - (A) use fuels having low ash and sulfur content,
 - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m., and
 - (C) reduce steam load demands consistent with continuing plant operation.
- (3) Operators of manufacturing industries of the following classifications: primary metals industry; petroleum refining and related industries; paper and allied products industries; glass, clay, and concrete products industries shall:
 - (A) reduce air pollutants from manufacturing operations by curtailing, postponing, or deferring production and related operations;
 - (B) defer trade waste disposal operations that emit particles, gases, vapors, or malodorous substances;
 - (C) reduce heat-load demands for processing; and
 - (D) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m.;
- (4) Other persons requested by the commission to prepare a preplanned abatement program shall take all required control actions for the alert level contained in their program plan.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a) (1); 143-215.3 (a) (12);
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4 th Revision	Apr. 4, 2018	Apr. 10, 2019	84 FR 14308

.0306 EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN: WARNING LEVEL

- (a) General
 - (1) There shall be no open burning by any material otherwise allowed under 15A NCAC 02D .1900.
 - (2) The use of incinerators for the disposal of solid waste or liquid waste shall be prohibited;
 - (3) Persons operating fuel-burning equipment which requires boiler lancing or soot blowing shall perform such operations only between 12 Noon and 4:00 p.m.
 - (4) Persons operating motor vehicles should minimize their use through car pools and increased use of public transportation.
- (b) Source Curtailment. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution shall, take all required control actions for the warning level that are listed below.
 - (1) Operators of coal or oil fired electric power generating facilities shall:
 - (A) use fuels having the lowest ash and sulfur content;
 - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between 12 noon to 4:00 p.m., and,
 - (C) divert electric power generating to facilities outside of the warning area.
 - (2) Operators of oil or oil fired process steam generating facilities shall:
 - (A) use fuels having the lowest ash and sulfur content;
 - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.;
 - (C) reduce steam load demands consistent with continuing plant operations; and
 - (D) prepare to use the preplanned abatement program for emergency level;
 - (3) Operators of manufacturing industries of the following classifications: primary metal industries; petroleum refining industries; paper and allied products industries; glass, clay, and concrete products industries shall:
 - (A) reduce air pollutants from manufacturing operations by, if necessary, assuming reasonable economic hardship by postponing production and allied operations,
 - (B) defer trade waste disposal operations that emit particles, gases, vapors, or malodorous substances,
 - (C) reduce heat-load demands for processing consistent with continuing plant operations; and
 - (D) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.;
 - (4) Other persons requested by the commission to prepare a preplanned abatement program shall take all required control actions for the warning level contained in their program plan.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3 (a) (12);

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.0307 EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN: EMERGENCY LEVEL

(a) General

(1) There shall be no open burning any material otherwise allowed under 15A NCAC 02D .1900.(2) The use of incinerators for the disposal of any form of solid or liquid waste shall be prohibited.

(3) All places of employment described below shall cease operations:

(A) mining and quarrying of nonmetallic minerals,

(B)

all manufacturing establishments except those required to have in force a preplanned abatement program for an air pollution emergency; ,

(C) all construction work involving grading or other operations which generate dust,

(D) all wholesale and retail establishments except pharmacies and stores primarily engaged in the sale of food,

(E) all commercial and manufacturing establishments, automobile repair services and garages, laundries, barbershops, beauty shops, and motion picture theaters, and

(F) elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools.

(4) The use of motor vehicles is prohibited except in emergencies with the approval of state and local police.

(b) Source Curtailment. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution shall take all required control actions for the emergency level as they are listed below.

(1) Operators of coal- or oil-fired electric power generating facilities shall:

(A) use fuels having lowest ash and sulfur content,

(B) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m.,

(C) divert electric power generation to facilities outside of emergency area.

(2) Operators of coal- or oil-fired process steam generating facilities shall:

(A) reduce heat and steam demands to that necessary to prevent equipment damage;

(B) Perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m.;

(C) take action called for in the preplanned abatement program;

(3) Operators of manufacturing industries of the following classifications: primary metals industries; petroleum refinery and related industries; chemical and allied products industries; paper and allied products industries; glass, clay, and concrete products industries:

(A) eliminate air pollutants from manufacturing operations by ceasing, curtailing, postponing, or deferring production and related operations to the extent possible without causing injury to persons or damage to equipment,

(B) eliminate air pollutants from trade waste disposal processes which emit particles, gases, vapors, or malodorous substances,

(C) reduce heat-load demands for processing to the minimum,

(G) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.;

(4) Other persons requested by the commission to prepare a preplanned abatement program shall take all required control actions for the emergency level contained in their program plan.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.107(a)(5);
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