

[DENR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 013, S. 2005, September 12, 2005]

GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF ATTAINMENT AND NON-ATTAINMENT AREAS IN AN AIRSHED

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Clean Air Act (RA 8479) and Rules VIII to XIII, Part-III of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (DAO 2000-81), these guidelines for the designation of attainment and non-attainment areas in an airshed are hereby formulated.

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms - All other terms not defined herein shall have the same definition given in the Act.

- a. Airshed - refers to areas with common weather or meteorological conditions and sources of air pollution which affect the interchange and diffusion of pollution in the surrounding atmosphere.
- b. Ambient Air Quality - refers to the atmosphere's average purity in a broad area as distinguished from discharge measurements taken at the source of pollution or the present characteristic or nature of the surrounding atmosphere.
- c. Ambient Air Quality Guideline Values - mean the concentration of air over specified periods classified as short term and/or long term which are intended to serve as goals or objectives for the protection of health and/or public welfare. These values shall be used for air quality management purposes such as determining time trends, evaluating stages of deterioration or enhancement of the air quality, and in general, used as basis for taking positive action in preventing, controlling or abating air pollution.
- d. Attainment Areas - areas in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Guideline Value for criteria pollutants. Areas which are not yet classified due to incomplete or invalid data shall remain attainment until officially classified.
- e. Bureau - refers to the Environmental Management Bureau
- f. Criteria Pollutants - air pollutants for which the National Ambient Air Quality Guideline values have been established. These are Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), Total Suspended Particulate (TSP), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Photochemical Oxidants as Ozone (O₃), Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Lead (Pb).
- g. Long term - limits or standards of pollutant concentration over a period of one year.
- h. Non-attainment Areas - areas not in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Guideline Values for criteria pollutants. The samples affected by natural/man-made or induced events/activities shall be excluded such as volcanic eruption, explosion and forest fires, etc.
- i. Short-term - limits or standards of pollutant concentration over periods ranging from 10 minutes to one hour. It also includes 8 hour averaging time.

SECTION 2. Basis for Designation of Attainment and Non-Attainment Areas - The designation of attainment and non-attainment areas shall be based on monitoring data collected using the reference methods and other equivalent methods approved by the Bureau in Part II (National Ambient Air Quality Guidelines) of DAO 2000-81 and/or other relevant information, including meteorological data, and data covering existing nearby sources.

The National Ambient Air Quality Guideline Values identify the Criteria Pollutants as TSP, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, O₃, CO, and Pb.

SECTION 3. Determination of Attainment and Non-Attainment Areas -

- a. Attainment Areas - an area shall be designated as attainment area if any of the following conditions are met/satisfied:
 - 1. The calculated maximum representative annual concentration for any site in the area during each year of the three years does not exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Guideline Values (e.g. TSP annual average of 90 ug/cu.m.); or
 - 2. The calculated annual concentrations are representative for only two years and the maximum concentration for any site in the area is equal to or less than three-fourths of the level of the guideline values (e.g. TSP concentration is equal to or less than 67 ug/cu.m.); or
 - 3. The calculated annual concentrations are representative for only one year and the maximum concentration at any site is equal to or less than one-half of the level of the guideline values. (e.g. TSP concentration is equal to or less than 45 ug/cu.m.)

b. Non-Attainment -

An area is non- attainment if the calculated representative annual concentration at any site during any of the three years exceeds the Air Quality Guideline Values.

Extreme concentration or highly irregular events do not generally significantly influence the annual average. However, their exclusion can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION 4. Monitoring, Sampling and Measurement Methodologies - The criteria pollutants shall be monitored, sampled and measured in accordance with the following procedures, methods and frequency:

1. Monitoring and Sampling

A. Particulate Matter (TSP and PM₁₀) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

The 24-hour sample of these Criteria Pollutants shall be obtained once every six (6) days when using the manual methods. Daily sampling may be done in the future as soon as continuous analyzers become available. The size of the TSP shall be less