



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2352 {NW2925E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 October 2020

Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

What (a) pollutants require mandatory monitoring and reporting in all air quality monitoring stations, (b) are acceptable levels of the specified pollutants and (c) steps are taken once a station reports on excessive levels of pollution at a station of the SA Air Quality Information Systems or a municipal station?

2352. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

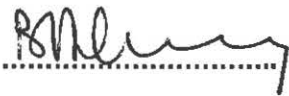
- (a) In terms of Section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 20 of 2014 (NEMAQA), the Minister is empowered to identify ambient air pollutants which present a threat to human health and well-being of the environment, and to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the identified pollutants. In this regard, the Minister established national ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (PM₁₀, particles with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 micrometres (10⁻⁶ m) and PM_{2.5}, particles with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), ozone (O₃) and benzene (C₆H₆). The NAAQS include averaging periods, limit values or concentrations, permitted frequency of exceedance per year, and compliance dates.

(b) The table below shows the ambient standards for the criteria pollutants.

Pollutant	Averaging time	Concentration	Permitted Frequency of Exceedance per year	Compliance date
Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)	10 minutes	500 µg/m ³ (191 ppb)	526	Immediate
	1 hour	300 µg/m ³ (134 ppb)	88	Immediate
	24 hours	125 µg/m ³ (48 ppb)	4	Immediate
	1 year	50 µg/m ³ (19 ppb)	0	Immediate
Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)	1 hour	200 µg/m ³ (106 ppb)	88	Immediate
	1 year	40 µg/m ³ (21 ppb)	0	Immediate
Ozone (O₃)	8-hour (running hourly average)	120 µg/m ³ (60 ppb)	11	Immediate
Carbon monoxide (CO)	1 hour	30 mg/m ³ (26 ppm)	88	Immediate
	8-hour (running hourly average)	10 mg/m ³ (8.7 ppm)	11	Immediate
Lead (Pb)	1 year	0.5 µg/m ³ (19 ppb)	0	Immediate
Benzene (C₆H₆)	1 year	10 µg/m ³ (3.2 ppb)	0	Immediate
		5 µg/m ³ (1.6 ppb)		01 Jan 2015
Particulate matter (PM₁₀)	24 hours	120 µg/m ³	4	Immediate
		75 µg/m ³	4	01 Jan 2015
	1 year	50 µg/m ³	0	Immediate
		40 µg/m ³	0	01 Jan 2015
Particulate matter (PM_{2.5})	24 hours	65 µg/m ³	4	Immediate
		40 µg/m ³	4	01 Jan 2016
		25 µg/m ³	4	01 Jan 2030
	1 year	25 µg/m ³	0	Immediate
		20 µg/m ³	0	01 Jan 2016
		15 µg/m ³	0	01 Jan 2030

(c) Where excessive levels of pollution at a station are reported by the South African Air Quality Information System or a municipal station, the information is shared with the public to empower them about the possible impacts their human health, as well as to guide them on how to carry out their daily activities to minimise the effects. In addition, tailor-made interventions are designed in air quality management plans or other strategic government programs to identify sources contributing to the pollution levels, and to implement necessary emission reduction measures. Within the regulated pollution sources such as industries, these interventions include enhanced compliance monitoring and enforcements through the atmospheric emission licencing command and control regime. For non-regulated pollution sources, air quality management interventions are designed to target those pollutants with reported excessive levels, towards progressive realisation of air that is not harmful to the health and wellbeing of the public.

Regards



MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 30/10/2020