

Implementing effective NO₂ abatement strategies and preparing notifications of time extension for NO₂

Workshop, 14 and 15 April 2010

Location: Conscience Building, Koning Albert II-laan 15, Brussels

Background and objectives

From the first of January this year, the limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in ambient air became legally binding. Although measures have been taken by the Member States and at EU level, compliance with the limit values will be challenging in many areas across the European Union. Therefore, there is a need to find practical solutions for effective air quality management and share examples of successful measures to reduce ambient NO₂ levels.

Where conformity with the limit values for NO₂ cannot be achieved by 2010, Directive 2008/50/EC provides the possibility of a postponement of the attainment date. As the experience with notifications related to PM₁₀ exceedances has shown, the notification process requires detailed information and data and is therefore resource-intensive for all parties concerned. Therefore, it seems helpful to provide additional guidance and discuss specific issues to ensure an efficient notification process.

These topics will be addressed by a workshop on 14 to 15 April 2010 held by the European Commission. The Austrian Umweltbundesamt will organize the workshop on behalf of the Commission.

The workshop is targeted at national officials involved in the implementation of EU air quality legislation at different levels of governance, especially in the areas of air quality planning and those involved in preparing notifications of NO₂ time extensions.

The main objectives of the workshop are:

- To share state of the art methods for assessing current and future NO₂ levels
- To exchange best-practice concerning measures to reduce NO₂ levels
- To provide practical guidance for an efficient time extension notification process.

The preliminary programme is indicated below and will be modified in light of comments received from stakeholders so that the final programme will be tailored to the needs of the participants. Concrete questions which are of interest for the Member States and which should be addressed during the workshop are welcome. Please send your questions to Ms. Britta Plankensteiner (Britta.plankensteiner@umweltbundesamt.at) by 31 January 2010.

Preliminary programme

Day 1: Quantifying and tackling NO₂ exceedances

Beginning: 10:30

- Introduction “From PM₁₀ to NO₂: trends in levels, trends in actions, and perspectives”
- Assessment of air quality (presentations and discussion)
 - Characterizing exceedances (determining sources and compliance gaps)
 - Methods for projecting future NO₂ levels

Lunch break

- Examples of state-of-the art measures to reduce NO₂ levels (presentations and discussion)
 - From planning to adoption and documenting the effects
 - Quantifying and projecting the impact of measures
 - Examples of integrated, multi-pollutant approaches
- Working groups on practical implementation of measures (sharing experiences with implementation in various Member States, specific question related to planning, adopting and quantifying the effects etc.)
- Results of the working groups with conclusions and recommendations

End: 17:00

Day 2: Notifying NO₂ time extensions

Beginning: 9:00

- Lessons from PM₁₀ notifications: What can we learn for air quality planning and for NO₂ notifications? (presentation and discussion)
- Working groups depending on the needs of the participants, e.g.:
 - case study on a typical notification
 - specific technical questions (e.g. on source apportionment, projections)
 - specific questions on the notification forms
 - feedback round for Member State officials who prepared the PM₁₀ notifications

Lunch break

- Results of the working groups
- Conclusions, recommendations and outlook

End: 15:00

Further information:

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