

Chapter 173-476 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards
Draft Rule Amendments
April 15, 2026

WAC 173-476-020 - Applicability.

- (1) The provisions of this chapter apply to all areas of the state of Washington.
- (2) All federal regulations referenced in this regulation are adopted as they exist on ~~January~~ ~~4December 31, 2024~~ ~~2016~~.

WAC 173-476-110 - Ambient air quality standards for PM-2.5.

- (1) Standards for PM-2.5.
 - (a) The three-year average of the annual arithmetic mean concentration of PM-2.5 must not exceed ~~129.0~~ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
 - (b) The three-year average of the ninety-eighth percentile twenty-four-hour average concentration of PM-2.5 must not exceed $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- (2) Measurement method. The levels of PM-2.5 in the ambient air must be measured by:
 - (a) A FRM based on 40 C.F.R. Part 50, Appendix L and designated according to 40 C.F.R. Part 53; or
 - (b) A FEM designated according to 40 C.F.R. Part 53.
- (3) Interpretation method. The interpretation method found in 40 C.F.R. Part 50, Appendix N must be used.

WAC 173-476-130 - Ambient air quality standards for sulfur oxides (sulfur dioxide).

- (1) Standard for sulfur oxides (measured as sulfur dioxide).
 - (a) Annual. The annual average concentration for sulfur oxides in the ambient air must not exceed ~~0.0210 ppbv~~ ~~ppmv~~ in a calendar year.
 - ~~(b) Twenty-four-hour. The twenty-four-hour average concentration for sulfur oxides in the ambient air must not exceed 0.14 ppmv more than once per calendar year. The twenty-four-hour averages must be determined from successive nonoverlapping twenty-four-hour blocks starting at midnight each calendar day.~~
 - ~~(c)~~ Three-hour. The three-hour average concentration for sulfur oxides in the ambient air must not exceed 0.5 ppmv more than once per calendar year. The three-hour averages must be determined from successive nonoverlapping three-hour blocks starting at midnight each calendar day.
 - ~~(d)~~ One-hour. The three-year average of the annual ninety-ninth percentile of the daily maximum one-hour average concentrations for sulfur oxides in the ambient air must not exceed 75 ppbv.
- (2) Measurement method. The levels of sulfur oxides must be measured as sulfur dioxide by:
 - (a) A FRM based on 40 C.F.R. Part 50, Appendix A-1 or A-2; or
 - (b) A FEM designated according to 40 C.F.R. Part 53.

(3) Interpretation methods.

- (a) The annual arithmetic mean is based on the average of hourly data. To be used in calculating the annual average, the hourly data must be at least seventy-five percent complete in each calendar quarter of the year.
- (b) The interpretation method for the twenty-four-hour average found in 40 C.F.R. Part 50.4(d) must be followed.
- (c) The interpretation method for the three-hour average found in 40 C.F.R. Part 50.5(c) must be followed.
- (d) The interpretation method for the one-hour average found in 40 C.F.R. Part 50, Appendix T must be followed.

(4) Rounding of values.

- (a) The annual arithmetic mean and twenty-four-hour averages must be rounded to two decimal places. Fractional parts equal to or greater than 0.005 ppmv must be rounded up.
- (b) The three-hour standard averages must be rounded to one decimal place. Fractional parts equal to or greater than 0.05 ppmv must be rounded up.

~~(5) Sunset provision. The ambient standards in WAC 173-476-130 (1)(a) and (b) are no longer applicable in a specific area one year after the effective date of the EPA's designation of attainment status of that area for the standard in WAC 173-476-130 (1)(d) and 40 C.F.R. 50.17.~~