



Draft standardisation request as regards modelling quality objectives for assessment purpose in ambient air in support of EU ambient air quality legislation

DG Environment

Unit C.3 – Clean Air and Urban Policy

1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Directive 2008/50/EC and Directive 2004/107/EC (the Ambient Air Quality Directives) require Member States to undertake air quality assessments, and to report the findings of these assessments to the European Commission on an annual basis
- In October 2022, the European Commission has put forward a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (recast) merging Directive 2008/50/EC and Directive 2004/107/EC. Once adopted it will also serve as the legal framework.
- As per Article 6 (2), (3) and (4), Article 7(3), Article 9, Article 10(3) and Article 14 of Directive 2008/50/EC, as well as, Article 4(2), (3) and (4) of Directive 2004/107/EC, modelling techniques may be used for air quality assessment
- Unlike for fixed and indicative measurements, there is currently no European standard for modelling quality objectives.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Ensure better data quality, reliability and comparability of air pollution data from modelling
- Improve the quality of information on air quality provided to the public
- Improve the implementation of the Ambient Air Quality Directives
- Achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Zero Pollution Action Plan to better monitor, report, prevent and remedy pollution of air, including the development of an integrated zero pollution monitoring and outlook framework

3. SCOPE

The requested European standard shall in particular:

- be applicable to modelling of all pollutants covered by EU ambient air quality legislation, and focus in particular on the following particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO); and apply to all concentration ranges that may occur in ambient air and apply to both short- and long-term pollutant-specific time averages,
- specify the requirements, in the form of modelling quality objectives (MQO) that should be attained for validation of air quality modelling for assessment purposes,
- detail the method to determine modelling quality objectives; and shall establish a method by which measurement uncertainty is used as a benchmark.

3. TIMELINE

Done:

- Consultation with the JRC – involved in the drafting of the request
- Presentation to the Committee on Standards – May 2023
- Launched regulated consultation: Member States (**AQEG 13/7**), ESOS (CEN/CENELEC, ETSI) Stakeholder organisations (ANEC, ECOS, ETUC, SBS)

Next steps:

- Launch Commission inter-services consultation
- Positive opinion of the Committee on Standards

3. TIMELINE

-continuation:
- Adoption of Commission Implementing Decision on standardisation request (foreseen for early 2024)
- Notification of Decision to CEN (N)
- Acceptance of request by CEN (N + 1 month)
- Draft work programme by CEN (N + 2 months)
- CEN to provide the first annual report (N + 6 months + annually)
- CEN to provide final report (N + 52 months)

Thank you



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