Legislation on ambient air quality: EU and USA

The present document provides an overview of legislation on ambient air quality in the EU and the USA.

Note that in the current database there is a companion document with [actual values for air quality standards](#).

Note the section with **References** at the bottom of the document.

Regulation in the EU

For the EU, an description of the very important "Air Quality Framework Directive" (EC 96/62/EC) and its Daughter Directives can be found on the page http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/ambient.htm (there are links to the directives from that page).

The first daughter directive (1999/30/EC) sets limit values for NOx, SO_2, Pb and PM_{10} in ambient air.
The second (2000/69/EC) sets limits for benzene and CO, while the third (2002/3/EC) is related to ozone.
There is a an overview of other directives related to air pollution on the page
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/legis.htm

Regulation in the USA

An overview of US regulations on ambient air quality regulations is provided in the table below.

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY			
Legislation (in chronological order within sections)	**Deadline for implementation of specific measures**	**Specific measures**	**Atmospheric pollutant addressed**
AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS			
Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 Section 109. National ambient air quality standards	Within 30 days after Dec 31, 1970	- Authorizes Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, henceforth "the Administrator," to establish national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants and thereafter revise the standards when deemed necessary. - Authorizes the Administrator to judge and revise a list of criteria pollutants. - Primary standards are to protect the public health; secondary standards are to protect the public welfare. - Requires the Administrator to complete a thorough review of the NAAQS at five-year intervals.	Specified in the NAAQS. Includes SO_2, NO_2, CO, ozone, PM_{10}, PM_{25}, lead.
Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 Section 110. Implementation plans.	Within 3 years after the promulgation of NAAQS	- Requires each State to develop and submit to the Administrator a plan, henceforth "State Implementation Plan (SIP)," for implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of NAAQS. - Requires each SIP to include enforceable emission limitations and other control measures, means, or techniques, as well as schedules and timetables for compliance and maintenance. - Requires state and local transportation planning authorities to demonstrate conformity to the area's SIP[1]	Pb

---

[1] The statutory basis for transportation conformity is found in the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAA) of 1990, but and transportation public laws reinforce the need for coordinated transportation and air quality planning through the metropolitan planning provisions. These are Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, Public Law 102-240, Dec. 18, 1991, which was followed by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), Public Law 105-178, June 9, 1998.

References

- US: http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/
  National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

- EU: A description of the very important "Air Quality Framework Directive" (EC 96/62/EC) and its Daughter Directives can be found on the page http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/ambient.htm (there are links to the directives from that page). There is a an overview of other directives related to air pollution on the page http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/air/legis.htm

- Switzerland: http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/imperia/md/content/luft/fachgebiet/d/stab/Immissionsgrenzwerte.pdf

- Japan: http://www.env.go.jp/en/lar/regulation/aq.html

- China http://www.vecc-sepa.org.cn/eng/news/news_detail.jsp?newsid=e00397
  SEPA, Vehicle Emission Control Center

- Other countries: The World Bank has a list, but it is not up to date:
  http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/em/power/standards/airqstd.stm