

The department, after notice and hearing, may revise the standards, and shall publish the revised standards, from time to time. (Added Stats. 1959, c. 835, p. 2885, § 1, effective June 8, 1959.)

§ 426.5 Maximum allowable standards of emissions of exhaust contaminants from motor vehicles; determination; public hearings; notice; revision

It shall be the duty of the State Director of Public Health to determine by February 1, 1960, the maximum allowable standards of emissions of exhaust contaminants from motor vehicles which are compatible with the preservation of the public health including the prevention of irritation to the senses, interference with visibility and damage to vegetation.

The standards shall be developed after the department has held public hearings and afforded an opportunity for all interested persons to appear and file statements or be heard. The department shall publish such notice of the hearings as it determines to be reasonably necessary.

The department after notice and hearing may revise the standards, and shall publish the revised standards, from time to time. In revising the standards the department shall, after February 1, 1960, take into account all emissions from motor vehicles rather than exhaust emissions only.

Whenever the department revises the standards it shall submit a copy of such revised standards to the Legislature if the Legislature is in session, or to the Senate Fact Finding Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities and the Assembly Interim Committee on Transportation and Commerce if the Legislature is not in session, and such revised standards shall not become effective until the 31st day after such submission. (Added Stats. 1959, c. 200, 2091, § 1, as amended; Stats. 1960, 1st Ex. Sess., c. 36, p. 380, § 1; Stats. 1965, c. 2031, p. —, § 1 urgency, eff. July 23, 1965.)

AMBIENT AIR STANDARDS

In establishing the air quality standards which follow, the State Department of Public Health aimed at providing a sound basis for efforts to control or abate sources of atmospheric pollution. With the great variety and wide distribution of emission sources, air pollution control may indeed be costly, and minimum levels of some pollutants are inevitable. It was important, therefore, to estimate at what level certain specified effects begin to occur for the various pollutants. These estimates are the basis for the standards.

It was agreed from the outset that any standards set must be based on sound data and concurred in by scientists in the air pollution and related fields. The standards relating to human health and well-being were based on the groups of persons in the population who are most sensitive to air pollution effects provided such groups be definable in terms of age and medical status.

The following possible effects of community air pollution on sensitive groups of people were recognized:

1. Acute sickness or death.
2. Insidious or chronic disease.
3. Alteration of important physiological function.¹
4. Untoward symptoms.²
5. Discomfort from air pollution sufficient to lead individuals to change residence or place of employment.

The following effects of community air pollution upon sensitive types of crops were also recognized:

1. Acute damage leading to unmarketability.
2. Insidious or chronic effects, leading to impaired yield.
3. Alteration of fundamental biochemical processes without overt damage.

The effects of air pollutants vary both in kind and in severity. The seriousness of the effect determines the urgency of control. A graded set of standards was established which recognized this relationship. Three levels of air pollutants were defined as follows:

I. "Adverse" Level. The first effects of air pollutants are those likely to lead to untoward symptoms or discomfort. Though not known to be associated with the development of disease, even in sensitive groups, such effects are capable of

¹ By important physiological function is meant function such as ventilation of the lung, transport of oxygen by hemoglobin, or dark adaptation (the ability to adjust eye mechanisms for vision in partial darkness).

² By untoward symptoms is meant symptoms which in the absence of an obvious cause, such as air pollution, might lead a person to seek medical attention and relief.