



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication

REGULATORY ALERT

Final Rule

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Lead

This information was prepared by NASA's Principal Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication (RRAC). An archive of regulatory alerts, summaries and other information is posted on the [website](#). If you have further questions and/or need assistance with this matter, please contact Sharon Scroggins (256-544-7932, sharon.scroggins@nasa.gov).

Date [Citation]: 15 October 2008 [to be published in the *Federal Register*]

Regulatory Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Rulemaking Type: Final Rule

Title: National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Lead

Summary:

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants that cause adverse effects to public health and the environment. Non-attainment areas are regions within the country where the concentration of one or more criteria pollutants exceeds the level set as the federal air quality standard. If a state has non-attainment areas within its borders or has had one designated in the past 10 years, it must submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to EPA outlining steps to achieve the standard. SIPs must include an inventory of emissions, enforceable emission limitations, control measures, and schedules and timetables for compliance that are necessary for the area to meet the NAAQS standard.

EPA issued proposed revisions to the primary and secondary NAAQS for lead on 20 May 2008 ([73 FR 29183](#)). The purpose of the primary standard is to provide protection for children and other "at risk" populations. The purpose of the secondary standard is to provide protection for vegetation, forested ecosystems, and other organisms. In the revised primary standard, EPA proposed reducing the existing standard of 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) of air to a level within the range of 0.10 to 0.30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The agency sought comments on alternative levels within a range from less than 0.10 to 0.50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. EPA proposed that the secondary standard be identical to the primary standard.

After reviewing comments received on the proposed revisions, EPA issued the [final rule](#) on 15 October 2008 setting both the primary and secondary NAAQS for lead at 0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, 10 times more stringent than the existing standard. Because the current monitoring network is insufficient to determine which areas comply with the new standard, EPA is redesigning the monitoring network to assess compliance. States and tribes are required to make recommendations for areas to be designated attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable by October 2009. Final designations will be effective no later than January 2012; however, EPA intends to complete initial designations as soon as possible where data are sufficient from existing monitoring networks. States are required to submit SIPs by June 2013 and meet the standards by January 2017.

Potential Impacts to NASA:

The new standards may result in additional counties being designated as nonattainment areas for lead. NASA Centers, contractors, and vendor facilities located in such counties may become subject to additional emission control requirements, more stringent permitting requirements, and requirements to perform conformity analyses. All NASA Centers are located in areas that are in attainment with the previous 1.5- $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ lead standard.

Glenn Research Center is located in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which is one of the counties EPA lists as potential nonattainment areas for the 0.15- $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ standard. Cuyahoga County would violate a 0.15- $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ standard using the highest "rolling" 3-month average of ambient monitoring data from 2005 to 2007 with a value of 0.16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The other NASA Centers are located in counties currently forecast to be in attainment with the new lead standard.

Additional Information: <http://www.epa.gov/air/lead/actions.html>