

Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets *National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)* to protect public health and welfare from harmful effects of certain commonly occurring pollutants known as “criteria” pollutants. The EPA requires that states monitor the ambient air to determine attainment of the NAAQS and regulate industries that emit these and other pollutants.

Two types of standards have been established. **Primary standards** set limits to protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. **Secondary standards** set limits to protect public welfare which includes protection against decreased visibility, and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

Ambient Air Quality Standards

Air Pollutant	Hawaii Standard	Federal Primary Standard	Federal Secondary Standard
Carbon Monoxide 1-hour average 8-hour average	9 ppm 4.4 ppm	35 ppm 9 ppm	None
Lead 3-month average	1.5 µg/m ³ (calendar quarter)	0.15 µg/m ³ (rolling 3-month)	Same as primary
Nitrogen Dioxide Annual average	0.04 ppm	0.053 ppm	Same as primary
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) 24-hour block average Annual average	150 µg/m ³ 50 µg/m ³	150 µg/m ³ None	Same as primary None
Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) 24-hour block average Annual average	None None	35 µg/m ³ 15 µg/m ³	Same as primary Same as primary
Ozone 8-hour rolling average	0.08 ppm	0.075 ppm	Same as primary
Sulfur Dioxide 3-hour block average 24-hour block average Annual average	0.5 ppm 0.14 ppm 0.03 ppm	- 0.14 ppm 0.03 ppm	0.5 ppm - -
Hydrogen Sulfide 1-hour average	0.025 ppm	None	None

ppm = parts per million by volume

µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter of air