

## **SECTION .0300 - AIR POLLUTION EMERGENCIES**

### **15A NCAC 02D .0301 PURPOSE**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of air pollution control regulations or standards, this Section is designed to prevent the excessive buildup of air contaminants during air pollution episodes thereby preventing the occurrence of an emergency due to the effects of these contaminants on the public health.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12);  
Eff. February 1, 1976;  
Readopted Eff. January 1, 2018.

## 15A NCAC 02D .0302 EPISODE CRITERIA

The Director may issue a proclamation of an air pollution alert, air pollution warning, or air pollution emergency if the Director determines that the accumulation of air contaminants in any place is attaining or has attained levels that could, if such levels are sustained or exceeded, lead to a threat to the health of the public. In deciding whether to issue such a proclamation, the Director shall be guided by the following criteria:

- (1) Alert. The alert level is that concentration of pollutants at which first stage control actions are to begin. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality with the concurrence of the Governor shall proclaim an alert when any of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site and meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at or exceed above levels for 12 or more hours or, in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken:
  - (a) sulfur dioxide --  $800 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.3 ppm), 24-hour average;
  - (b) carbon monoxide --  $17 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (15 ppm), eight-hour average;
  - (c) ozone --  $400 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.2 ppm), one-hour average;
  - (d) nitrogen dioxide --  $1130 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.6 ppm), one-hour average;  $282 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.15 ppm), 24-hour average; or
  - (e) PM10-- $350 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  24-hour average.
- (2) Warning. The warning level indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade and that additional abatement actions are necessary. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality with the concurrence of the Governor shall proclaim a warning when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site and meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at or exceed above levels for 12 or more hours or, in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken:
  - (a) sulfur dioxide --  $1600 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.6 ppm), 24-hour average
  - (b) carbon monoxide --  $34 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (30 ppm), eight-hour average;
  - (c) ozone --  $800 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.4 ppm), one-hour average;
  - (d) nitrogen dioxide --  $2260 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (1.2 ppm), one-hour average;  $565 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.3 ppm), 24-hour average; or
  - (e) PM10 --  $420 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  24-hour average.
- (3) Emergency. The emergency level indicates that air quality is continuing to degrade to a level that the most stringent control actions are necessary. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality with the concurrence of the Governor shall declare an emergency when any one of the following levels is reached at any monitoring site and meteorological conditions are such that pollutant concentrations can be expected to remain at or exceed above levels for 12 or more hours or, in the case of ozone, the situation is likely to reoccur within the next 24-hours unless control actions are taken:
  - (a) sulfur dioxide --  $2100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.8 ppm) 24-hour average;
  - (b) carbon monoxide --  $46 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (40 ppm), eight-hour average;
  - (c) ozone --  $1000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.5 ppm), one-hour average;
  - (d) nitrogen dioxide --  $3000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (1.6 ppm), one-hour average;  $750 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (0.4 p.p.m.), 24-hour average; or
  - (e) PM10-- $500 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  24-hour average.
- (4) Termination. After a proclamation has been issued, any level reached by application of these criteria shall remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met. At that time the next lower level shall remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12); Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1988; July 1, 1984; June 1, 1980; December 1, 1976; Readopted Eff. January 1, 2018.*

**15A NCAC 02D .0303 EMISSION REDUCTION PLANS**

(a) Air Pollution Alert. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution described in 15A NCAC 02D .0305 shall take all air pollution alert actions required for that source and shall put into effect the preplanned abatement program that is required by 15A NCAC 02D .0304 for an air pollution alert.

(b) Air Pollution Warning. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution described in 15A NCAC 02D .0306 shall take all air pollution warning actions required for that source and shall put into effect the preplanned abatement program that is required by 15A NCAC 02D .0304 for an air pollution warning.

(c) Air Pollution Emergency. Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution described in 15A NCAC 02D .0307 shall take all air pollution emergency actions required for that source and shall put into effect the preplanned abatement program that is required by 15A NCAC 02D .0304 for an air pollution emergency.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12);  
Eff. February 1, 1976;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 1984;  
Readopted Eff. January 1, 2018.

(a) Any person who is responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution that is described in 15A NCAC 02D .0305, .0306, or .0307 or that emits 100 tons per year or more of any one pollutant shall prepare an abatement program plan to reduce the emissions of air pollutants into the outdoor atmosphere during periods of an air pollution episode as described in 15A NCAC 02D .0302. The plan shall be consistent with good industrial practices and safe operating procedures. When the Director requests that the plan be submitted for review, the owner or operator of the source shall submit the plan within 30 days of the Director's request.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12); Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. July 1, 1988; July 1, 1984; Readopted Eff. January 1, 2018.*

**15A NCAC 02D .0305 EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN: ALERT LEVEL**

**(a) General.**

- (1) There shall be no open burning of any material otherwise allowed under 15A NCAC 02D .1900.
- (2) The use of incinerators for the disposal of any form of solid waste shall be limited to the hours between noon and 4:00 p.m.
- (3) Persons operating fuel burning equipment which requires boiler lancing or soot blowing shall perform such operations only between the hours of noon and 4:00 p.m.
- (4) Persons operating motor vehicles should eliminate all unnecessary operations.

**(b) Source Curtailment.** Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution shall take all required control actions for the alert level that are listed below:

- (1) Operators of coal or oil fired electric power generating facilities shall:
  - (A) use fuels having low ash and sulfur content,
  - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between noon and 4:00 p.m., and
  - (C) divert electric power generation to facilities outside of the alert area;
- (2) Operators of coal or oil fired process steam generating facilities shall:
  - (A) use fuels having low ash and sulfur content,
  - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between noon and 4:00 p.m., and
  - (C) reduce steam load demands consistent with continuing plant operation;
- (3) Operators of manufacturing industries of the following classifications: primary metals industry; petroleum refining and related industries; chemical and allied products industries; paper and allied products industries; glass, clay, and concrete products industries shall:
  - (A) reduce air pollutants from manufacturing operations by curtailing, postponing, or deferring production and related operations;
  - (B) defer trade waste disposal operations that emit particles, gases, vapors, or malodorous substances;
  - (C) reduce heat-load demands for processing; and
  - (D) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between noon to 4:00 p.m.; and
- (4) Other persons requested by the Commission to prepare a preplanned abatement program shall take all required control actions for the alert level contained in their program plan.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12);  
Eff. February 1, 1976;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 1984; December 1, 1976;  
Readopted Eff. January 1, 2018.

**15A NCAC 02D .0306 EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN: WARNING LEVEL**

**(a) General**

- (1) There shall be no open burning of any material otherwise allowed under 15A NCAC 02D .1900.
- (2) The use of incinerators for the disposal of solid waste or liquid waste shall be prohibited.
- (3) Persons operating fuel-burning equipment which requires boiler lancing or soot blowing shall perform such operations only between noon and 4:00 p.m..
- (4) Persons operating motor vehicles should minimize their use through car pools and increased use of public transportation.

**(b) Source Curtailment.** Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution shall take all required control actions for the warning level that are listed below:

- (1) Operators of coal or oil fired electric power generating facilities shall:
  - (A) use fuels having the lowest ash and sulfur content;
  - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between noon to 4:00 p.m.; and
  - (C) divert electric power generating to facilities outside of the warning area;
- (2) Operators of coal or oil fired process steam generating facilities shall:
  - (A) use fuels having the lowest ash and sulfur content;
  - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between noon to 4:00 p.m.;
  - (C) reduce steam load demands consistent with continuing plant operations; and
  - (D) prepare to use the preplanned abatement program for emergency level;
- (3) Operators of manufacturing industries of the following classifications: primary metal industries; petroleum refining and related industries; chemical and allied products industries; paper and allied products industries; glass, clay, and concrete products industries shall:
  - (A) reduce air pollutants from manufacturing operations by, if necessary, assuming reasonable economic hardship by postponing production and related operations;
  - (B) defer trade waste disposal operations that emit particles, gases, vapors, or malodorous substances;
  - (C) reduce heat-load demands for processing consistent with continuing plant operations; and
  - (D) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between noon to 4:00 p.m.; and
- (4) Other persons requested by the Commission to prepare a preplanned abatement program shall take all required control actions for the warning level contained in their program plan.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12);  
Eff. February 1, 1976;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 1984; December 1, 1976;  
Readopted Eff. January 1, 2018.*

**15A NCAC 02D .0307 EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN: EMERGENCY LEVEL**

**(a) General**

- (1) There shall be no open burning of any material otherwise allowed under 15A NCAC 02D .1900.
- (2) The use of incinerators for the disposal of any form of solid or liquid waste shall be prohibited.
- (3) All places of employment described below shall cease operations:
  - (A) mining and quarrying of nonmetallic minerals;
  - (B) all manufacturing establishments except those required to have in force a preplanned abatement program for an air pollution emergency;
  - (C) all construction work involving grading or other operations that generate dust;
  - (D) all wholesale and retail establishments except pharmacies and stores primarily engaged in the sale of food;
  - (E) all commercial and manufacturing establishments, automobile repair services and garages, laundries, barbershops, beauty shops, and motion picture theaters; and
  - (F) elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools.
- (4) The use of motor vehicles is prohibited except in emergencies with the approval of local or state police.

**(b) Source Curtailment.** Any person responsible for the operation of a source of air pollution shall take all required control actions for the emergency level that are listed below:

- (1) Operators of coal- or oil-fired electric power generating facilities shall:
  - (A) use fuels having lowest ash and sulfur content;
  - (B) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between noon to 4:00 p.m.;
  - (C) divert electric power generation to facilities outside of emergency area;
- (2) Operators of coal- or oil-fired process steam generating facilities shall:
  - (A) reduce heat and steam demands to that necessary to prevent equipment damage;
  - (B) perform boiler lancing and soot blowing between noon and 4:00 p.m.;
  - (C) take the action called for in the preplanned abatement program;
- (3) Operators of manufacturing industries of the following classifications: primary metals industries; petroleum refining and related industries; chemical and allied products industries; paper and allied products industries; glass, clay, and concrete products industries shall:
  - (A) eliminate air pollutants from manufacturing operations by ceasing, curtailing, postponing, or deferring production and related operations to the extent possible without causing injury to persons or damage to equipment;
  - (B) eliminate air pollution from trade waste disposal processes which emit particles, gases, vapors, or malodorous substances;
  - (C) reduce heat-load demands for processing to the minimum;
  - (D) perform boiler lancing or soot blowing between 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and
- (4) Other persons requested by the Commission to prepare a preplanned abatement program shall take all required control actions for the emergency level contained in their program plan.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.3(a)(12);  
Eff. February 1, 1976;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 1984; December 1, 1976;  
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