

3-Hour Secondary Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Standard

On April 28, 1971, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) established the 3-hour secondary SO₂ standard at a level of 0.5 parts per million (ppm) ([36 FR 8186](#)). The 3-hour secondary standard was not to be exceeded.

On September 14, 1973, U.S. EPA retained the existing 3-hour secondary standard and revoked the annual secondary SO₂ standard due to a lack of evidence of adverse effects on public welfare at ambient concentrations ([38 FR 25678](#)).

On April 3, 2012, after reviewing available science, U.S. EPA concluded that the existing 3-hour secondary SO₂ standard provided the requisite level of protection to vegetation from the direct effects of exposure to gaseous oxides of sulfur and retained the existing standard. U.S. EPA also concluded that new standards to address effects associated with the deposition of oxides of sulfur on sensitive aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems will not be added at this time ([77 FR 20218](#)).

On December 27, 2024, U.S. EPA revoked the 3-hour secondary SO₂ standard and established a new annual secondary standard ([89 FR 105692](#)).

Indiana has never had any nonattainment areas for the 3-hour secondary SO₂ standard.