

Annual Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Standards

On April 28, 1971, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) established primary and secondary annual SO₂ standards ([36 FR 8186](#)). The primary SO₂ standards were set as an annual average of 0.03 parts per million (ppm). The secondary SO₂ standards were set at an annual level of 0.02 ppm. The annual average primary and secondary standards were not to be exceeded.

On September 14, 1973, after reviewing available science, U.S. EPA 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 May 22, 1996, after reviewing available health science, U.S. EPA concluded that the existing primary annual SO₂ standard provided the requisite level of public health protection and, therefore, retained the standard ([61 FR 25566](#)).

On June 2, 2010, U.S. EPA revoked the primary annual SO₂ standard and established a new primary 1-hour SO₂ standard ([75 FR 35520](#)).

On December 27, 2024, U.S. EPA revoked the 3-hour secondary SO₂ standard and established a new annual secondary standard ([89 FR 105692](#)). To attain the secondary annual standard, the three-year annual average daily mean value cannot exceed 10 parts per billion (ppb).

- State designation recommendations for the annual secondary standard are due to U.S. EPA by no later than December 11, 2025.
- U.S. EPA is required to notify states concerning any intended modifications to their recommendations by no later than August 11, 2026.
- U.S. EPA is required to promulgate final area designations by December 11, 2026.