

# EU air Pollution laws

## National Emission Ceilings Total caps

The NEC Directive sets national emission limits for a number of harmful air pollutants. These 'ceilings' limit the total amount of air pollution which can be emitted by each Member States every year.

### AGRICULTURE

The EU lacks comprehensive policy to prevent air pollution from agriculture. Only large poultry and pig facilities are regulated through the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). Cattle – which are responsible for 60% of total EU ammonia emissions - remain unaddressed.

### INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING

Standards to limit the sulphur content of marine fuel in the EU do exist but on the whole the EU relies heavily on standards adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). These standards are either too weak or simply not properly implemented.

*Emissions from international shipping are not covered by the NEC Directive.*

### ROAD TRANSPORT

Emissions from road transport are regulated through 'Euro' standards for cars, vans and heavy duty vehicles. EU type approval rules are currently being updated and "Real Driving Emissions test procedures" (RDE) being developed to better reflect on-the-road emissions.

### CONSTRUCTION MACHINES

The Regulation on Non-Road Mobile Machineries (NRMM) addresses emissions from combustion engines installed in construction machines, railcars, locomotives, and inland waterway vessels. It defines emission limits and lays down the procedures engine manufacturers have to follow to be allowed to sell their engines in the EU market.

### LARGE INDUSTRY

Energy generation, the production of metals, minerals and chemicals and waste management are addressed through the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). Installations must be granted permits based on "Best-Available Techniques" (BAT) which are described in so-called BAT reference Documents (BREFs).

### SMALLER INDUSTRY

Boilers, heaters, engines and turbines used for electricity generation, residential heating and cooling, and heating and steam for industrial processes are addressed through the Medium Combustion Plant (MCP) Directive. It sets emission limits which are much less stringent than what is technically feasible.

### RESIDENTIAL HEATING

Air pollution from domestic heating boilers and stoves is addressed by the Ecodesign implementing regulations which set rules for the marketing and use of energy-using products. The current emission limits set for boilers and stoves are very weak compared to what is technically feasible, they will also only apply to future installations from 2020 onwards.

### SOLVENTS

Products containing solvents such as paints, varnishes, deodorants and nail polish are responsible for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) which are precursors of ground-level ozone. Emission limits for paints and varnishes are set in the 2004 Paints Directive. VOC emissions from other products are not addressed by any EU legislation.

## Ambient air quality

These rules ensure a minimum quality for the air we breathe. Member States must measure air pollution levels and comply with concentration limits for a number of harmful pollutants. When air quality levels are breached, air quality plans must be developed to address the problem.