

History of the various ozone standards.

The existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone is .08 parts per million, daily maximum 8-hour average. The standards are met at an air monitoring site when the three year average of the annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentration is less than or equal to .08 ppm. Both the 8-hour primary and secondary ambient air quality standard were set at this level as a result of a review and revision of the standard in 1997.

On April 15, 2004 EPA finalized attainment/nonattainment designations for the 8-hour standard and they became effective on June 15, 2004. For Maine there were two nonattainment areas along the coastline. The Southwest Coast Nonattainment area included parts of York, Cumberland , Androscoggin and all of Sagadahoc counties. The Mid Coast Nonattainment area included parts of Knox, Lincoln, Hancock and Waldo counties.

In 2006 Maine DEP submitted to EPA a request to redesignate all 8-hour Ozone NAAQS nonattainment areas to attainment. That request was granted and on December 11, 2006 EPA finalized the resignation with an effective date of January 10, 2007. As a result, the two previously designated nonattainment areas are now designated as “175 Maintenance” areas. In addition, for areas that were previously designated as a maintenance area or nonattainment area for the revoked 1-hour Ozone NAAQS and are not in the new “175 Maintenance” areas were designated as a “110 Maintenance” area. The “110 Maintenance” area includes Androscoggin and Kennebec counties and parts of York , Cumberland , Knox, Lincoln, Hancock and Waldo counties. The remainder of the state is designated as attainment of the 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

The State standard had been established at the same time the original federal standard was established and had remained the same until 1995. Effective September 29, 1995, the State standard was eliminated and the State adopted whatever the federal standard is for ozone as a state standard. Since the federal standard was changed in 1997, it was automatically adopted as the new State standard.