

3-Hour Secondary Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Standard

The 3-hour secondary SO₂ standard was established in April 1971 and set at a level of 0.5 parts per million (ppm) (36 FR 8186). The 3-hour secondary standard was not to be exceeded.

In September 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).

In April 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).

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