

8.0 Progress Report for Lead

8.1 The national perspective

Since 1st January 2000 the sale of leaded petrol in the United Kingdom has been banned. Emissions of lead are now restricted to a variety of industrial activities such as battery manufacture, paint manufacture and the use of radiation shielding.

Modelling and monitoring undertaken at a national level indicates that existing national policies should generally be sufficient to achieve the objectives for lead. However, some localised exceedances of the objective may occur close to major industrial processes.¹

8.2 The local perspective

In the First Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York lead was assessed against the following objective:

'An annual average of 0.5mg/m³ or less to be achieved by the end of 2005'.

It was concluded that this objective would be met in York without the need for further action at a local level.

In the Second and Third Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York lead was assessed against revised objectives which were:

'An annual mean of 0.5mg/m³ or less to be achieved by the end of 2004.'

'An annual mean of 0.25mg/m³ or less to be achieved by the end of 2008'

It was concluded that these objectives would also be met in York without the need for further action at a local level.

For the purpose of the update and screening assessment lead was been assessed against the current objective which is:

'An annual mean of 0.25mg/m³ or less to be achieved by the end of 2008'

¹ DEFRA Review and Assessment: Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (03) 2003

8.3 Conclusions

Since previous review and assessments of air quality in York have not identified any risk of the current lead objectives being breached, no monitoring of lead has been undertaken in York. Although national maps of estimated annual mean lead concentrations have not yet been made available to local authorities, monitoring has been undertaken at a national level close to 30 key industrial sites. This monitoring work has indicated that in general the 2004 and 2008 lead objectives are already being met in the United Kingdom. The only areas found to be still at risk of breaching the lead objectives are those located in close proximity to non-ferrous metal and foundry processes.

City of York Council's update and screening assessment undertook a review of all Part A and Part B processes. It was revealed that none of the processes in York have significant lead emissions. As such, City of York Council is not required to progress to a detailed assessment of lead. A further update and screening exercise for lead shall be carried out in April 2006.