

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 assessments undertaken in 2003 and 2006 lead was assessed against the current objective which is:

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

During the review and assessment process in York no requirement to monitor lead has ever been identified. On this basis there is no lead monitoring data available to present in this report.

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

8.3 Conclusions

Based on the results of the Update and Screening Assessment (April 2006) it was concluded that City of York Council was not required to progress to a detailed assessment of lead. Since 2006 no further development has taken place in York which would have the potential to give rise to exceedences of the lead objectives. The findings of the last Update and Screening Assessment are therefore still considered valid and there are no plans to proceed to a detailed assessment for lead at this time. A further update and screening assessment for lead will be carried out in April 2008.