

# **Air Quality Forum: New Ambient Air Quality Directive**

Air & Environment Quality Division, Defra

# Key EU developments

- **2<sup>nd</sup> reading agreement on the new Directive on ambient air quality**
- Review of IPPC – proposal published 21 December 2007
- National Emission Ceilings Directive review – Commission proposal now expected late spring 2008

# New air quality directive - timing

- European Parliament agreed second reading compromise text December 2007;
- Council expected to agree the new Directive which is likely to come into force May/June 2008;
- Member States will have 2 years to transpose.

# Second reading overview

- Good outcome in light of pressure from the European Parliament for impractical PM<sub>2.5</sub> obligations;
- Some added complexities on PM<sub>2.5</sub> controls;
- No changes to Common Position on derogation periods or where limit values apply.

# New PM<sub>2.5</sub> obligations

- Limit value of 25µg/m<sup>3</sup> to be met everywhere by 2015; *2<sup>nd</sup> stage limit value of 20µg/m<sup>3</sup> to be met by 2020;*
- Exposure Concentration Obligation of 20µg/m<sup>3</sup> to be met across urban background locations (as an average) by 2015;
- Commission to review PM<sub>2.5</sub> provisions by 2013.

# Compliance flexibility

- PM<sub>10</sub> : 3 yrs from coming into force (to 2011)
- NO<sub>2</sub> : additional 5 years (to 2015)
- Permitted subject to approval of detailed plans setting out how the limit values will be achieved in the extended timeframes.

# Other points to note

- Clarifies that only man made sources of pollution can be addressed;
- Compliance with limit values will not be assessed where the public does not have access and there is no fixed habitation, or on the carriageway and central reservation of roads.

# Next steps

- Working with the devolved administrations to transpose on time.
- Subject to consultation, UK expects to submit plans to secure compliance flexibilities to the Commission.
- Projections indicate that the UK will need to demonstrate action beyond that agreed in the National Air Quality Strategy to achieve full compliance with EU limit values.