



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: 02/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 4086 {NW5367E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 47 of 2023

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Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What are the details of (a) minimum data reporting standards that air quality monitoring stations need to comply with and (b) pollutants that all air quality monitoring stations need to monitor?

4086. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (a) Air quality monitoring stations monitor the state of air quality continuously, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The data must comply with a minimum data threshold of 75% valid data availability to ensure representativity, accuracy and credibility on the reported state of air quality. This 75% threshold represents a minimum of 45 out of 60 minutes of valid data for hourly average reporting; a minimum of 18 out of 24 hours for daily average reporting and a minimum of 6570 out of 8760 hours for annual average reporting.
- (b) In terms of Section 9 of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (NEMAQA), the Minister is empowered to identify air pollutants which present a threat to human health and well-being of the environment and to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of the identified pollutants. In this regard, the Minister established national ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (PM₁₀, particles with an aerodynamic diameter

of less than 10 micrometres (10^{-6} m) and $PM_{2.5}$, particles with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres), sulphur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), ozone (O_3) and benzene (C_6H_6). The national standards include averaging periods, limit values or concentrations, permitted frequency of exceedance per year, and compliance dates. These are the pollutants that monitoring stations need to monitor.



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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 30/11/2023