

October 16, 2008 - Just a few days before National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the Environmental Protection Agency revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for lead (Pb) in dramatic fashion, now permitting only one-tenth of the former level. The change marks the first time in 30 years that the EPA has reduced allowable limits of lead emissions. Limiting ambient lead to 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter of air (ug/m³) will protect public health by sharply reducing the risk of inhalation and ingestion, which introduce lead to the bloodstream, causing developmental issues in children. Prior to enforcing the new standard, the EPA must first redesign the national network that monitors lead to determine which areas are not in compliance. By October 2011, the EPA hopes to have these areas designated and will then permit them 5 years to reach permissible levels of lead emissions.

From EPA website, Final Revisions to National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead:
http://www.epa.gov/air/lead/pdfs/20081015_pb_naaqs_final.pdf