

Ambient Air Quality Standards in Developing Countries

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The World Health Organization (WHO) began publishing *Air Quality Guidelines for Europe* in 1987. These guidelines were frequently treated as global air quality guidelines, as none had been formally established (UNEP/WHO, 1996). In 2000, the WHO published *Guidelines for Air Quality*, which explicitly expanded the application of the guidelines from Europe to all countries in the world. Soon thereafter, the WHO reevaluated the guidelines for particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone, and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and published *Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs): Global Update 2005*. The primary goal of this research is to analyze how national air pollution control agencies in developing countries have used, or plan to use, both the European and global WHO AQGs to set ambient air quality standards (AAQS). The secondary goal of this project is to identify the evidence-base that is used to set AAQS for PM and SO₂ in developing countries.