



# Environmental Protection Act 1990

## 1990 CHAPTER 43

### PART I

#### INTEGRATED POLLUTION CONTROL AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

##### *Preliminary*

### **3 Emission etc. limits and quality objectives.**

<sup>[F1]</sup>(1) The Secretary of State may make regulations under subsection (2) or (4) below establishing standards, objectives or requirements in relation to particular prescribed processes or particular substances.

(2) Regulations under this subsection may—

- (a) in relation to releases of any substance from prescribed processes into any environmental medium, prescribe standard limits for—
  - (i) the concentration, the amount or the amount in any period of that substance which may be so released; and
  - (ii) any other characteristic of that substance in any circumstances in which it may be so released;
- (b) prescribe standard requirements for the measurement or analysis of, or of releases of, substances for which limits have been set under paragraph (a) above; and
- (c) in relation to any prescribed process, prescribe standards or requirements as to any aspect of the process.

(3) Regulations under subsection (2) above may make different provision in relation to different cases, including different provision in relation to different processes, descriptions of person, localities or other circumstances.

(4) Regulations under this subsection may establish for any environmental medium (in all areas or in specified areas) quality objectives or quality standards in relation to any substances which may be released into that or any other medium from any process.

**Changes to legislation:** Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (5) The Secretary of State may make plans for—
  - (a) establishing limits for the total amount, or the total amount in any period, of any substance which may be released into the environment in, or in any area within, the United Kingdom;
  - (b) allocating quotas as respects the release of substances to persons carrying on processes in respect of which any such limit is established;
  - (c) establishing limits of the descriptions specified in subsection (2)(a) above so as progressively to reduce pollution of the environment;
  - (d) the progressive improvement in the quality objectives and quality standards established by regulations under subsection (4) above;
 and the Secretary of State may, from time to time, revise any plan so made.
- (6) Regulations or plans under this section may be made for any purposes of this Part or for other purposes.
- (7) The Secretary of State shall give notice in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes of the making and the revision of any plan under subsection (5) above and shall make the documents containing the plan, or the plan as so revised, available for inspection by members of the public at the places specified in the notice.

<sup>F2</sup>(8) ..... ]

<p><b>Textual Amendments</b></p> <p><b>F1</b> Ss. 1-28 repealed (1.4.2015 for S. for the repeal of ss. 1-19, 22-28) by <a href="#">Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (c. 24)</a>, s. 7(3), <b>Sch. 3</b> (with s. 7(7)); S.S.I. 2015/74, art. 2(2)(b)</p> <p><b>F2</b> S. 3(8) repealed (2.12.1999) by <a href="#">1998 c. 47</a>, s. 100(2), <b>Sch. 15</b> (with s. 95); S.I. 1999/3209, art. 2, <b>Sch.</b></p>
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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 30(4A) inserted by [2021 c. 30 s. 57\(2\)](#)
- s. 33ZB(10A) inserted by [2021 c. 30 s. 69\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 34ZB(8A) inserted by [2021 c. 30 s. 69\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 45A-45AZG substituted for s. 45A by [2021 c. 30 s. 57\(4\)](#)
- s. 46(2)(a)(b) substituted for words by [2021 c. 30 s. 57\(5\)](#)
- s. 106A inserted by [2023 c. 6 s. 41\(2\)](#)
- s. 161(2AA)(2AB) inserted by [2016 anaw 3 s. 69\(4\)](#)