

On 22.9.21, the World Health Organization launched their new [Global Air Quality Guidelines](#), which aim to protect the health of populations by reducing key air pollutants. Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to human health, alongside climate change. [Newer studies show health effects even at very low levels](#) (see Swiss TPH web). Therefore, the new guideline values have been lowered (see table). The guidelines will serve as a tool for policy makers to guide legislation to combat air pollution. [Also see LUDOK Newsletter](#)

Pollutant	Averaging time	AQG-value 2005	AQG-value 2021	Air quality standards Switzerland (LRV)
PM _{2,5} , µg/m ³	Annual	10	5	10
	24 hour ^a	25	15	-
PM ₁₀ , µg/m ³	Annual	20	15	20
	Per 24 hours ^a	50	45	50
O ₃ , µg/m ³	Warm season ^b	-	60	-
	8 hour ^a	100	100	120 (1h)
NO ₂ , µg/m ³	Annual	40	10	30
	24 hour ^a	-	25	80
SO ₂ , µg/m ³	24 hour ^a	20	40	100 (30 1y)
CO, mg/m ³	24 hour ^a	(7)	4	8

µg = microgram

^a 99th percentile (i.e. 3–4 exceedance days per year).

^b Average of daily maximum 8-hour mean O₃ concentration in the six consecutive months with the highest six-month running-average O₃ concentration.

Note: Annual and peak season is long-term exposure, while 24 hour and 8 hour is short-term exposure.