

- N. What requirements for General Conformity should apply to the 8-hour ozone standard?
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 3. Who runs the General Conformity program?
 4. How does an agency demonstrate conformity?
 5. General Conformity regulation revisions for the 8-hour ozone standard
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- O. How should the NSR Program be implemented under the 8-hour ozone NAAQS?
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 2. Nonattainment NSR under the 8-hour ozone standard
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 6. What happens at the end of the interim period?
 7. What is the legal basis for providing this transitional program?
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- P. How will EPA ensure that the 8-hour ozone standard will be implemented in a way which allows an optimal mix of controls for ozone, PM_{2.5}, and regional haze?
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- Q. What emission inventory requirements should apply under the 8-hour ozone NAAQS?
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- S. What are the requirements for Ozone Transport Regions (OTRs) under the 8-hour ozone standard?
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1. Background

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 1. What are the Ozone Flex Guidelines for the 1-hour ozone NAAQS?
 2. What is the "Early Action Compact" for implementing the 8-hour ozone NAAQS?
 3. What is EPA's response to the Texas "Early Action Compact?"
 4. Did EPA consider other options for incentives for areas that take early actions for reducing ozone?
 5. What is the difference between the early action compact program and the transitional NSR program?
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 - C. How will EPA's proposal affect funding under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program?
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- A. Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review
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I. What Is the 8-Hour Ozone Problem and EPA's Strategy for Addressing it?

A. What Is the Ozone Standard and the Health Problem?

Ground-level ozone pollution is formed by the reaction of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. These two

pollutants, often referred to as ozone precursors, are emitted by many types of pollution sources, including on-road and off-road motor vehicles and engines, power plants and industrial facilities, and smaller "area" sources.

In 1979, we promulgated the 0.12 ppm, 1-hour ozone standard, (44 FR 8202, February 8, 1979). On July 18, 1997, we promulgated a revised standard of 0.08 ppm, measured over an 8-hour period (*i.e.*, the 8-hour standard). In general, the 8-hour standard is more protective of public health and more stringent than the 1-hour standard, and there are more areas that do not meet the 8-hour standard than there are areas that do not meet the 1-hour standard. At the time that we promulgated the revised 8-hour standard, we also promulgated a rule providing for the phase-out of the 1-hour standard, (62 FR 38856 (codified at 50.9(b))). That rule provided that the 1-hour standard would no longer apply to an area once we determined that the area had attained the 1-hour standard.¹

Ozone can irritate the respiratory system, causing coughing, throat irritation, and/or uncomfortable sensation in the chest. Ozone can reduce lung function and make it more difficult to breathe deeply, and breathing may become more rapid and shallow than normal, thereby limiting a person's normal activity. Ozone also can aggravate asthma, leading to more asthma attacks that require a doctor's attention and/or the use of additional medication. In addition, ozone can inflame and damage the lining of the lungs, which may lead to permanent changes in lung tissue, irreversible reductions in lung function, and a lower quality of life if the inflammation occurs repeatedly over a long time period (months, years, a lifetime). People who are particularly susceptible to the effects of ozone include children and adults who are active outdoors, people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, and people with unusual sensitivity to ozone.

More detailed information on health effects of ozone can be found at the following Web site: http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s_o3_index.html.

The focus of today's proposed rule is implementation of the revised 8-hour ozone air quality standard issued by EPA in 1997, including the transition from implementation of the 1-hour

¹ Due to the continued litigation over the 8-hour standard, EPA revised 40 CFR 50.9(b) in July 2000, to limit its authority to revoke the 1-hour standard until such time as the 8-hour standard became fully enforceable and no longer subject to legal challenge. (65 FR 45182, July 20, 2000).