

determine which areas were required to be covered under subpart 2, viz., 0.121 ppm. Under our long-standing rounding conventions, values between 0.121 and 0.124 inclusive round down to 0.12, which is not an exceedance of the 1-hour standard. Several commenters¹² noted that the 0.121 ppm value does not represent an exceedance of the 1-hour standard due to our rounding conventions. They recommend that 0.125 ppm (which rounds to 0.13 ppm, an exceedance) be adopted as the cutpoint for determining whether an area must be covered under subpart 2. The likely practical effect would be to place a few additional areas under subpart 1. We are soliciting comment on this suggestion.

Five Percent Adjustment Provision

If we change our classification scheme to have a narrower range for each classification, we may need to modify the provisions for the 5 percent "reclassification" feature of section 181(a)(4) to reflect that change. The apparent intent of Congress was to allow States to request a different classification if an area's design value was within 5 percent of a higher or lower classification threshold. That was based on the original threshold values,

which were certain percentages above the level of the 1-hour standard. Our June 2, 2003 proposal would have retained the original percentages for the classification table based on 8-hour average design values. If we adopt a classification table based on lower percentages above the standard, the adjustment feature might have to be modified to keep the same relative "window" of adjustment. For instance, using 100 percent of the percentages between the 1-hour design value thresholds, we would use a 5 percent adjustment, but using only 50 percent of those percentages, we may want to use only a 2.5 percent adjustment, since the thresholds themselves are half as large.

Alternatives to a 50 Percent Adjustment

As noted above, one option for addressing concerns that our proposed option 2 may not have provided classifications high enough to provide adequate time for some areas to attain the 8-hour standard was to use only half (50 percent) of the percentages above the 1-hour standard calculated for each of the classification thresholds. The commenters' rationale for the 50 percent adjustment was that the 8-hour standard is more stringent than the 1-hour standard and that past air quality trends

information provided by the commenter for 11 metropolitan areas showed that, on average, 8-hour average ozone concentrations declined over the 1998–2002 period at about half the rate that 1-hour averages declined. Thus, we would expect attainment for areas with 8-hour values a certain percentage above the standard to take relatively more time to attain the 8-hour standard than areas with 1-hour values the same percentage above the 1-hour standard would take to attain the 1-hour standard. However, we could use another appropriate percentage that may be based on how soon areas are expected to attain the 8-hour standard based on measures that are currently in effect or are scheduled to go into effect. EPA is soliciting comments on other possible adjustments that may place areas in classifications that better reflect their 8-hour air quality problem and the time needed to attain.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7408; 42 U.S.C. 7410; 42 U.S.C. 7501–7511f; 42 U.S.C. 7601(a)(1).

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TABLE 1.—ALTERNATIVE CLASSIFICATIONS
[Table 1 of subpart 2 1-hour ozone classification table]
[Translation to 8-Hour Design Values]

Area class		CAA design value thresholds (1-hour ozone ppm)	Percent above 1-hour ozone NAAQS	Translated 8-hour design value thresholds (ppm ozone) using Col D (June 2, 2003 proposal)	50% of col. D	Translated 8-hour design value thresholds (ppm ozone) w/50% of Col D starting with 0.091 *	Translated 8-hour design value thresholds (ppm ozone) w/50% of Col D starting with 0.085 **
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Marginal	from	0.121	0.085	0.091	0.085
	up to	0.138	15	0.092	7.5	0.097	0.091
Moderate	from	0.138	15	0.092	7.5	0.097	0.091
	up to	0.16	33.333	0.107	16.6665	0.105	0.099
Serious	from	0.16	33.333	0.107	16.6665	0.105	0.099
	up to	0.18	50	0.120	25	0.113	0.106
Severe-15	from	0.18	50	0.120	25	0.113	0.106
	up to	0.19	58.333	0.127	29.1665	0.116	0.110
Severe-17	from	0.19	58.333	0.127	29.1665	0.116	0.110
	up to	0.28	133.333	0.187	66.6665	0.150	0.142
Extreme	equal to or above.	0.28	133.333	0.187	66.6665	0.150	0.142

* $0.09 + (0.09 \times (\text{col F}/100))$

** $0.085 + (0.085 \times (\text{col F}/100))$

¹² E.g., American Petroleum Institute, docket document OAR–2003–0079–0281; Michigan