

France

The Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Planning was established on 1 June 2007. This Ministry is responsible of state environmental policy (preservation of biodiversity, Kyoto Protocol application, environmental control of industries, etc.), transportation, infrastructures, sea, and habitat policy, territorial development. The Act of 2 Aug 1961 on Air Pollution Control and Odour Abatement sets the framework for air pollution control in France. Specific requirements are set out in decrees, orders and instructions. Environmental legislation in France is strongly influenced by EU interventions in this field. France has transposed almost all EU Directives into national laws. Limitation on emissions of certain air pollutants from large combustion plants and French national emission ceilings for certain air pollutants set out in EU Directive 2001/81/EC are implemented in Order of 30 July 2003 on the existing combustion boilers with a capacity greater than 20 MWth (NOR: DEVP0320297A) and Order of 20 June 2002 on the new or upgraded boilers with a capacity greater than 20 MWth (NOR: DEVP0210222A). These two Orders were amended in 13 Jul 2004 (Orders of 13 July 2004: NOR: DEVP0430214A and NOR: DEVP0430215A).

***Emission limit values for existing coal-fired boilers equal to or greater than 20 MWth
(from 1 Jan 2008)***

boiler size P (MWth)	pollutant			
	SO ₂ (mg/m ³)	NO _x as NO ₂ (mg/m ³)	dust (mg/m ³)	CO (mg/m ³)
20 ≤ P < 50	2000	600	100*	300
50 ≤ P < 100	2000	600	100*	300
100 ≤ P < 300	2400 – 4P	600	100*	300
300 ≤ P < 500	2400 – 4P	600	100*	300
P ≥ 500**	400	500 (until 31 Dec 2015) 200 (from 1 Jan 2016)	50	300

* Emission limit value of 50 mg/m³ shall apply in towns of more than 250,000 inhabitants.

** Existing old facilities for the centralized production of electricity using a solid fuel which operated more than 3,600 hours per year on average over the period 1996-2000 must comply with the emission limit values in the table above as well as a limit value in annual flow calculated on the following basis: 2,820 tonnes of SO₂ and 3,020 tonnes of NO_x for an installed capacity of 1,500 MWth.

- Note:
1. Existing facilities of the old sector of the centralized power plants greater than 500 MWth using solid fuel, must comply with effect from 1 Jan 2010 the following limits on average annual emissions for: SO₂ 1,800 mg/m³, NO_x: 900 mg/m³.
 2. Where the emission limit values above cannot be met due to the characteristics of the fuel, a desulphurisation rate of at least 94% must be achieved for facilities with a rated thermal input of 500 MWth or larger (the rate is reduced to 92% in case where contracts for installation of FGD systems or lime injection equipments have been concluded and where installation work started before 1 Jan 2001), a rate of desulphurisation of at least 90% must be achieved for facilities with a rated thermal input equals to or larger than 300 MWth and smaller than 500 MWth, 75% for facilities with a rated thermal input equals to or larger than 100 MWth and smaller than 300 MWth, and 60% for facilities with a rated thermal input smaller than 100 MWth.
 3. Until 1 Jan 2018, for a plant that operated in the twelve months prior to 1 Jan 2001 and continue to operate on solid fuels containing less than 10% of volatile matter, the emission limit value of 1,200 mg/m³ for NO_x shall apply.
 4. The emission limit value of 100 mg/m³ may be applied to plants with a rated thermal input greater than 500 MWth burning solid fuels with a heat content of less than 5,800 kJ/kg (net calorific value), a moisture content greater than 45% by weight, a combined moisture and ash content greater than 60% by weight and a calcium oxide content greater than 10%.
 5. For existing old plants with rated thermal input equals to or greater than 400 MWth burning solid fuel, which from 1 Jan 2008 onwards do not operate more than 2,000 hours a year until 31 Dec 2015 and no more than 1,500 hours a year from 1 Jan 2016 (rolling average over a period of five years), an emission limit value of 800 mg/m³ for SO₂ may apply.
 6. Until 1 Jan 2016, for existing old plants greater than 500 MWth burning solid fuel, which from 1 Jan 2008 onwards do not operate more than 2,000 hours a year (rolling average over a period of five years), an emission limit value of 600 mg/m³ for NO_x may apply. From 1 Jan 2016, for plants burning the existing solid fuel, which does not operate more than 1,500 hours a year (rolling average over a period of five years), an emission limit value of 450 mg/m³ for NO_x may apply.

Emission limit values for new, modified or extended coal-fired boilers equal to or greater than 20 MWth

boiler size P (MWth)	pollutant			
	SO ₂ (mg/m ³)	NO _x as NO ₂ (mg/m ³)	dust (mg/m ³)	CO (mg/m ³)
20 ≤ P < 50	850 ¹ (in area A ²) 1700 (in area B ²)	550	50 (in area A ²) 75 (in area B ²)	200 ³
50 ≤ P < 100	850	400	50	200 ³
100 ≤ P < 300	200 ⁴	600 ⁵	30	150 ³
P ≥ 300	200	200	30	150 ³

- ¹. When coal and natural gas or liquified petroleum gas or biomass are burned simultaneously, the emission limit value for coal fired boilers shall apply if the coal is used predominantly.
- ². Area A refers to cities or towns of more than 250,000 habitants, and Area B refers a area with inhabitants under 250,000.
- ³. An emission limit value of 100 mg/m³ applies to pulverised coal boilers.
- ⁴. For DOM, the emission limit values of 850 to 200 mg/m³ with linear decrease applies.
- ⁵. For DOM, an emission limit value of 300 mg/m³ applies.

General notes:

1. 'Existing plant' means any facility for which the original approval was granted before 31 Jul 2002 and that any facility which has been the subject of an application for approval before 31 Jul 2002 and put into operation no later than 27 Nov 2003.
2. 'Existing old plant' refers to any facility which has been granted permits before 1 Jul 1987.
3. 'Existing recent plant' refers to any facility that has been granted permits after 1 Jul 1987 and before 31 Jul 2002 and any facility that has applied for approval before 31 July 2001 and put into service no later than 27 Nov 2003.
4. 'Centralized power plant' refers to all plants with a capacity greater than 300 MWth, whose primary aim is to generate electricity.
5. All above emission limit values are expressed at 0 °C, 101.3 kPa and dry flue gas basis with 6% oxygen in the flue gas.