
LAQM – Policy Guidance revision (PG03) 2008

Rhodri Griffiths

Radioactivity and Pollution Prevention Branch
Sustainable Energy and Industries Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Contents

- Local Air Quality Management -context in Wales.
- Proposed guidance framework.
- Overview of policy guidance proposals.
- Timing and summary.



Air quality in Wales

- Population 3 million, land coverage 20,000 Km²
- 22 unitary local authorities.
- Majority of urban and population centres located along the southern and northern corridors.
- Significant upland and rural areas within the mid and northern areas.



Air Quality challenges in Wales

- Currently 25 AQMAs in Wales.
- Most are for NO₂ related to emissions from transport sources in urban areas.
- Specific point sources arising from both present and past industrial activities.
- Elevated concentrations of Ozone in rural locations.
- Deposition in delicate areas where we have diverse ecosystems and sites of special interest.



LAQM Guidance framework

- Proposal to update the existing statutory guidance under section 88 Environment Act 1995
 - Technical guidance TG08
 - Policy Guidance PG08



LAQM Guidance framework

- Technical Guidance (Tg08)
 - Replaces TG(03), consolidates all aspects of technical guidance into one document.
 - UK basis (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales).
 - Consultation is at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/index.htm
 - End date for comments is 26 September 2008.



LAQM Guidance framework proposals

■ Policy Guidance (PG08)

- Will replace PG(03).
- Disaggregated for 2009 – “Wales only” basis.
- Currently being drafted by WAG.
- Consultation in October through the WAG website.
- Revision early 2009 ahead of 4th round of LA review and assessment.



Why Wales only policy guidance?

Policy drivers

- Ministerial portfolio responsibilities for the Environment Sustainability and Housing post Government of Wales Act 2006.
- Ministerial Priorities.
 - Climate Change
 - Green transport
 - Environment Strategy
- Welsh Assembly Government priorities
 - One Wales Agenda



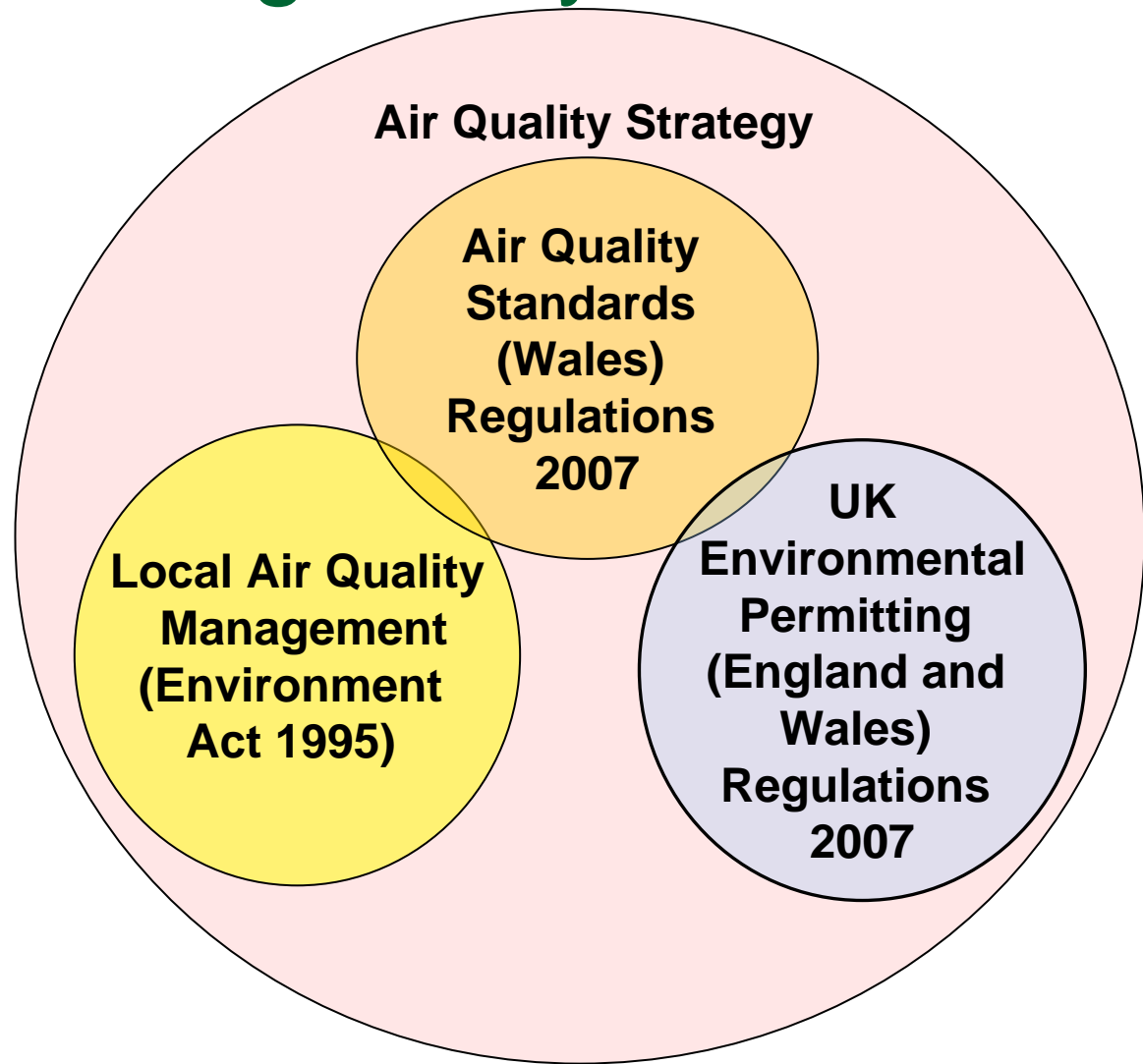
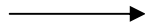
Why Wales only policy guidance? Cont'd

- To better reflect Welsh Minister's roles and responsibilities.
 - Several European Directives relating to objectives on air quality pollutants some focusing upon emissions at source.
 - Vast majority of these policy portfolios are devolved to the Welsh Ministers.
 - Welsh Ministers are responsible for transposition of the directives in Wales



Overview of Regulatory Framework

European
legislation



Why Wales only policy guidance? Cont'd

- Under the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2007, Welsh Ministers are the Competent Authority in relation to Wales to:
 - take necessary measures to ensure that concentrations of pollutants attain Air quality standards.
 - Endeavour to preserve lowest concentrations compatible with sustainable development
- LAQM key component in delivering Welsh Ministers duties and meeting objectives set out in the UK Air Quality Strategy 2007



Why Wales only policy guidance? – cont'd

- To update existing guidance to account for differences;
 - between regulatory and legislative regimes in England and Wales
 - e.g. Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2007
 - between delivery frameworks
 - e.g. transport - 4 regional transport plans and 22 local transport plans in Wales.



Why Wales only policy guidance? – cont'd

- To provide further guidance in relation to Wales only
 - E.g. Integration with Health, Social Care and Well Being strategies
- To provide additional guidance in relation to Wales only
 - E.g. Include unpublished guidance on the requirement to switching off engines when parked.



Overview of Policy Guidance

Key considerations:

- Currently being considered by interdepartmental project group in WAG
- Key aims:
 - to provide consistency of approach with LAQM in UK;
 - to provide further concise guidance on the LAQM process and implementing action plans;
 - Detailed guidance on practical options and appraisal approaches
 - Help to target resources through using impact appraisal - cost/benefit or cost effectiveness.
 - No new burdens



Overview of Policy Guidance cont'd

Key points

- No new burdens
- Detailed guidance on practical options and appraisal approaches
- Provide guidance on building air quality into planning, transport, health plans
- Provides guidance on joining up CO2 and air quality initiatives to get maximum benefits for both
- Inclusion of the Beacons Low Emission Strategies Working Group guidance to be considered.



Overview of Policy Guidance cont'd

- Examples of how the guidance can be applied:
 - Incentivising low emission cars through parking controls
 - Emission strategies to upgrade captive bus or other vehicle fleets
 - Promoting behaviour change - car clubs, walking and cycling strategies etc



Overview of Policy Guidance cont'd

Detailed guidance on practical options covers:

- Low emission vehicles.
- Retro-fitting.
- Low emission zones.
- Economic principles and economic appraisal of schemes.



In Summary....

- Policy guidance currently under development with colleagues in the Transport, Planning, Health and Local Government directorates.
- No new burdens.
- Consistency with UK LAQM.
- Consultation on draft guidance due October 2008.

