Maximum Limits for Dangerous Substances in Soil and Groundwater

Regulation of the Minister of the Environment No. 12 of 2 April 2004

(RTL[1] 2004, 40, 662),

entered into force 19 April 2004.

This Regulation is established pursuant to § 12 of the “Chemicals Act” (RT I 1998, 47, 697; 1999, 45, 512; 2002, 53, 336; 61, 375; 63, 387; 2003, 23, 144; 51, 352; 75, 499; 88, 591).

I. General Provisions

§ 1. Maximum limits for dangerous substances

(1) The maximum limits for dangerous substances serve as the basis for assessing the condition of soil and groundwater and for planning measures necessary to improve the condition of soil and groundwater.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation, the maximum limits for dangerous substances are expressed as reference values and target values for these substances. The reference values for dangerous substances in soil are expressed in micrograms per dry mass of soil.

§ 2. Reference value

(1) A reference value is the concentration of a dangerous substance in soil or groundwater above which the soil or groundwater is polluted and dangerous to human health and the environment.

(2) The reference value for a group of dangerous substances is the total of the reference values for the individual substances in the group, unless determined otherwise.

(3) The concentration of dangerous substances for which reference values are not established by this Regulation shall be assessed on the basis of expert assessments of the condition of soil and groundwater. An expert assessment shall be conducted if previous use of the area under assessment has created a risk of contamination from such dangerous substances.

(4) Depending on the purpose of land use, this Regulation shall implement different reference values for industrial and residential zones. The purpose of land use shall be determined based on Government of the Republic Regulation No. 36 of 24 January 1995 "Approval of the Intended Purposes of Cadastral Units and of the Bases of their Designation" (RT I 1995, 13, 150; 1996, 32, 636).

(5) For the purposes of this Regulation, the following are industrial zones:

1) land used for production facilities, except cold storages, grain storages, vegetable storages and warehouse complexes;

2) land used for repair shops for agricultural machinery and forging shops that belong to agricultural production facilities;

3) land used for mining;

4) land used for landfills;

5) land used for transportation;

6) national defence land, except land under and needed to service buildings used for accommodation and rendering services to people;

7) polluted technogenic soil and other wasteland resulting from human activity, which is not designated for a specific purpose;

8) commercial land used for petrol stations;

9) land used for mass communication networks and utility works;

(6) The categories of land use not listed in subsection (5) belong to residential zones.

(7) The suitability of groundwater as a source of potable water cannot be determined on the basis of the reference values set out in this Regulation.

§ 3. Target value

A target value is a concentration of a dangerous substance in soil or groundwater at or below which the condition of the soil or groundwater is good, that is, safe for humans and the environment.

§ 4. Satisfactory condition of soil or groundwater

The condition of soil or groundwater is satisfactory if the concentration of dangerous substances is between the reference values and target values for soil or groundwater.

II. Maximum limits of dangerous substances in soil and groundwater

No	Dangerous substance	CAS No.	Maximum limits				
			In soil, (mg/kg)			In groundwater, µg/l	
			Target value	Reference value in residential zone	Reference value in industrial zone	Target value	Reference value
I. Heavy metals							
1.	Mercury (Hg)	–	0,5	2	10	0,4	2
2.	Cadmium (Cd)	–	1	5	20	1	10
3.	Lead (Pb)	–	50	300	600	10	200
4.	Zinc (Zn)	–	200	500	1500	50	5000
5.	Nickel (Ni)	–	50	150	500	10	200
6.	Chromium (Cr)	–	100	300	800	10	200
7.	Copper (Cu)	–	100	150	500	15	1000
8.	Cobalt (Co)	–	20	50	300	5	300
9.	Molybdenum (Mo)	–	10	20	200	5	70
10.	Tin (Sn)	–	10	50	300	3	150
11.	Barium (Ba)	–	500	750	2000	50	7000
12.	Selenium (Se)	–	1	5	20	5	50
13.	Vanadium (V)	–	50	300	1000	–	–
14.	Antimony (Sb)	–	10	20	100	–	–
15.	Thallium (Tl)	–	1	5	20	–	–
16.	Beryllium (Be)	–	2	10	50	–	–
17.	Uranium (U)	–	20	50	500	–	–
II. Other inorganic compounds							
18.	Fluoride (as F-ion, total)	–	450	1200	2000	1500	4000
19.	Arsenic (As)	–	20	30	50	5	100
20.	Boron (B)	–	30	100	500	500	2000

21.	Cyanides (as CN-ion, free)	–	1	10	100	5	100
22.	Cyanides (CN-total)	–	5	50	500	100	200
III. Aromatic hydrocarbons							
23.	Benzene	71-43-2	0,05	0,5	5	0,2	5
24.	Ethylbenzene	100-41-4	0,1	5	50	0,5	50
25.	Toluene	108-88-3	0,1	3	100	0,5	50
26.	Styrene	100-42-5	1	5	50	0,5	50
27.	Xylenols	–	0,1	5	30	0,5	30
28.	Aromatic hydrocarbons (total)	–	1	10	100	1	100
29.	Monophenols (total concentration of cresols and dimethyl phenols)	–	1	10	100	1	100
30.	Biphenols (total concentration of pyrocatechol, resorcinol and hydroquinone)	–	1	10	100	1	100
31.	Phenols (each following compound)		0,1	1	10	0,5	50
	o-cresol	95-48-7					
	m-cresol	108-39-4					
	p-cresol	106-44-5					
	2.3-dimethyl phenol	526-75-0					
	2.4-dimethyl phenol	105-67-9					
	2.5-dimethyl phenol	95-87-4					
	2.6-dimethyl phenol	576-26-1					
	3.4-dimethyl phenol	95-65-8					
	3.5-dimethyl phenol	108-68-9					
	pyrocatechol	120-80-9					
	resorcinol	108-46-3					
	beta naphthol	135-19-3					
	hydroquinome	123-31-9					
32.	Chlorophenols (each compound)	–	0,05	0,5	5	0,3	30
33.	MTBE	1634-04-4	1	5	100	0,5	10
34.	Oil products total	–	100	500	5000	20	600
IV. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)							
35.	Anthracene	120-12-7	1	5	50	0,1	5

36.	Chrysene	218-01-9	0,5	2	20	0,01	1
37.	Phenanthrene	85-01-8	1	5	50	0,05	2
38.	Naphthalene	91-20-3	1	5	100	1	50
39.	Pyrene	129-00-0	1	5	50	1	5
40.	α-methylnaphthalene	90-12-0	1	4	40	1	30
	β-methylnaphthalene	91-57-6					
41.	Dimethylnaphthalene (each following compound)		1	4	40	1	30
	1.2-dimethylnaphthalene	573-98-8					
	1.2-dimethylnaphthalene	575-41-7					
	1.4-dimethylnaphthalene	571-58-4					
	1.5-dimethylnaphthalene	571-61-9					
	1.6-dimethylnaphthalene	575-43-9					
	1.7-dimethylnaphthalene	575-37-1					
	1.8-dimethylnaphthalene	569-41-5					
	2.3-dimethylnaphthalene	581-40-8					
	2.6-dimethylnaphthalene	581-42-0					
	2.7-dimethylnaphthalene	582-16-1					
42.	Acenaphtene	83-32-9	1	4	40	1	30
43.	Benzo(a)pyrene	50-32-8	0,1	1	10	0,01	1
44.	PAH (total)	–	5	20	200	0,2	10
V. Chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons							
45.	1.2-dichloethane	107-06-2	0,1	2	50	0,1	5
46.	Chloroform	67-66-3	0,1	1	25	0,1	2
47.	Hexachlorethane	67-72-1	1	10	100	1	10
48.	Chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons, each compound, except the compounds in this list		0,1	5	50	1	70
VI. Chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons							
49.	PCB	27323-18-8	0,1	5	10	0,5	1
50.	Chlororganic aromatic compounds (each compound, except the compounds in this list)	–	0,1	0,5	30	0,1	5
51.	Chlororganic aromatic compounds (total)	–	0,2	5	100	0,5	5

VII. Amines							
52.	Aliphatic amines (total)	–	50	300	700	1	20
VIII. Pesticides							
53.	2.4-D	94-75-7	0,05	0,5	2	0,05	1
54.	Aldrin	309-00-2	0,1	1	5	0,01	1
55.	Dieldrin	60-57-1	0,05	0,5	2	0,01	1
56.	Endrin	72-20-8	0,1	1	5	0,005	0,5
57.	Isodrin	465-73-6	0,1	1	5	0,005	0,5
58.	DDT	50-29-3	0,1	0,5	5	0,1	1
59.	Hexachlorocyclohexane (each isomer)	–	0,05	0,2	2	0,01	1
60.	Trichlorobenzene	–	2	5	50	0,01	5
61.	Hexachlorobenzene	118-74-1	2	5	25	0,5	5
62.	Pesticides (total)	–	0,5	5	20	0,5	5

[1] RTL – *Riigi Teataja Lisa = Appendix to the State Gazette*