



**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**  
**of 3 December 1982**  
**on a limit value for lead in the air**  
 (82/884/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission<sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament<sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee<sup>(3)</sup>,

Whereas one of the essential tasks of the European Economic Community is to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities and a continuous and balanced expansion, which cannot be imagined in the absence of a campaign to combat pollution and nuisances or of an improvement in the quality of life and the protection of the environment;

Whereas the use of lead is currently causing lead contamination of many areas of the environment;

Whereas inhaled lead contributes significantly to the total body burden of lead;

Whereas the protection of human health against the hazards of lead requires that the individual's exposure to lead in the air be monitored;

Whereas the first<sup>(4)</sup> and second<sup>(5)</sup> programme of action of the European Communities on the environment state that this pollutant should receive priority consideration; whereas the said programmes provide for the coordination of national programmes in this field and for the harmonization of national policies within the Community on the basis of a common long-term plan aiming at improving the quality of life; whereas since the specific powers of action required to this end have not been provided for in the Treaty, it is necessary to invoke Article 235 thereof;

Whereas insufficient technical and scientific information is available to enable the Council to lay down specific standards for the environment generally; whereas the adoption of limit values for the protection of human health will contribute to the protection of the environment as well;

Whereas it is desirable to fix a limit value for lead in the air;

Whereas the measures taken pursuant to this Directive must be economically feasible and compatible with balanced development; whereas in consequence a sufficient time limit should be laid down for its implementation; whereas account should also be taken of the provisions of Council Directive 78/611/EEC of 29 June 1978 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the lead content of petrol<sup>(6)</sup>;

Whereas it is desirable to monitor the quality of the air in places where people may be exposed continuously and for a long period and where there is a risk that the limit value may not be observed;

Whereas it is important that the Commission should obtain information concerning the sites used for sampling, the sampling and analysis procedures used to determine the concentration of lead in the air, the

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 154, 7. 7. 1975, p. 29.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 28, 9. 2. 1976, p. 31.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 50, 4. 3. 1976, p. 9.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ No C 112, 20. 12. 1973, p. 1.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ No C 139, 13. 6. 1977, p. 1.

<sup>(6)</sup> OJ No L 197, 22. 7. 1978, p. 19.

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places where the limit value laid down in the Directive has been exceeded and the concentrations measured in these places as well as the measures taken to avoid a repetition of the occurrence;

Whereas each year as from the second year after the implementation of this Directive the Commission should publish a summary report on the implementation of national provisions adopted pursuant to the Directive;

Whereas the application of the measures taken pursuant to this Directive should not lead to a noticeable deterioration of the quality of the air where the level of lead pollution observed when the Directive is implemented is lower than the limit value fixed;

Whereas, to implement the Directive, it is desirable to comply with the characteristics adopted in the Annex for choosing the sampling method; whereas, to analyze the samples taken, it is desirable to use the reference method adopted in the Annex or any other method for which the Commission has previously had proof that it provides equivalent results;

Whereas further development of the characteristics to be complied with for choosing a sampling method and the reference method of analysis, set out in the Annex to this Directive, may be desirable in the light of technical and scientific progress achieved in this field; whereas, to facilitate the implementation of the necessary work, it is desirable to provide for a procedure introducing close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission within a committee responsible for adapting the Directive to scientific and technical progress,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*

1. This Directive shall fix a limit value for lead in the air specifically in order to help protect human beings against the effects of lead in the environment.
2. This Directive shall not apply to occupational exposure.

*Article 2*

1. For the purpose of this Directive, 'limit value' means the concentration of lead in the air which, subject to the conditions laid down hereinafter, must not be exceeded.
2. The limit value shall be 2 micrograms Pb/m<sup>3</sup> expressed as an annual mean concentration.
3. Member States may, at any time, fix a value more stringent than that laid down in this Directive.

*Article 3*

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that five years after notification of this Directive, the concentration of lead in the air, measured in accordance with Article 4, is not greater than the limit value given in Article 2.

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*Article 7*

Application of the measures taken pursuant to this Directive must not bring about a significant deterioration in the quality of the air where the level of pollution by lead, at the time of implementation of this Directive, is low in relation to the limit value fixed in Article 2 (2).

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*Article 12*

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive within 24 months of its notification and shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.
2. Member States shall forward to the Commission the texts of the provisions of national law which they adopt in the field governed by this Directive.

*Article 13*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

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