

FACT SHEET
**Final Rule for Imperial County, California 8-hour Ozone Failure to Attain and
Reclassification of the Imperial County Nonattainment Area**

Today's action

- EPA is notifying the public that the Agency is finalizing a proposal to find that the Imperial County nonattainment area (Imperial County) has failed to attain the national ambient air quality standard for 8-hour ozone. The Imperial County attainment deadline was June 15, 2007 and the monitored air quality data for 2004-2006 shows the area is not attaining the standard. The Imperial County is reclassified as a moderate 8-hour ozone nonattainment area with a maximum attainment date of June 15, 2010. The State will need to submit a State Implementation Plan revision that meets the requirements for moderate areas no later than December 31, 2008.

Background

- On July 18, 1997, EPA promulgated a revised 8-hour ozone standard of 0.08 parts per million (ppm). This standard is more stringent than the previous 1-hour ozone standard.
- The Imperial County area was designated nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard on April 30, 2004, and classified "marginal" based on a 2001-2003 design value of 0.091 ppm with a maximum attainment date of June 15, 2007.
- The Imperial County area is reclassified as a moderate 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. The moderate area attainment date for the Imperial County area would then be as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than June 15, 2010.
- California must submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions that meet the 8-hour ozone nonattainment requirements for moderate areas as required by the Clean Air Act.
- Ozone is a major element of urban smog. Ozone can limit the ability to take a deep breath, and it can cause coughing, throat irritation, and breathing discomfort. There is also evidence that ozone can lower resistance to respiratory disease (such as pneumonia), damage lung tissue, and aggravate chronic lung disease (such as asthma or bronchitis).

Additional information

- For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air>
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