

CLEANER AIR OREGON HAZARD INDEX RULEMAKING



Cleaner Air Oregon is our state's program to reduce harm to the health of people who live, work, or learn near industrial facilities that emit toxic air contaminants.

The Environmental Quality Commission approved the Cleaner Air Oregon program in 2018, but there still are specific rules to write, get feedback on, and adopt.

The Hazard Index rulemaking process includes guidance from a technical advisory committee, rules advisory committee, fiscal advisory committee, and Oregonians. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, is facilitating this rulemaking.

Senate Bill 1541

This senate bill (SB) was enacted by the Oregon Legislature in 2018.



The bill states that rules can be written to revise current regulation levels for noncancer human health risk from toxic air contaminants.

Section 7 of SB 1541 states that regulation levels for toxic air contaminants at existing facilities expected to have developmental or other severe human health effects can be adjusted to a hazard index risk action level other than 5 (but no lower than 3).

What is the rulemaking timeline?



- Fall/Winter 2018 - A technical advisory committee with expertise in toxic air contaminant risk assessment met twice
- Summer 2019 - A rules advisory committee provided feedback on rule writing
- Fall 2019 - A fiscal advisory committee provided feedback on fiscal impact statement
- Fall/Winter 2019 - Public comment period
- Early 2020 - Present rules for adoption by the Environmental Quality Commission, the policy body that oversees the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

What is a Hazard Index?

HI

Noncancer health risk is measured using a hazard index (HI).

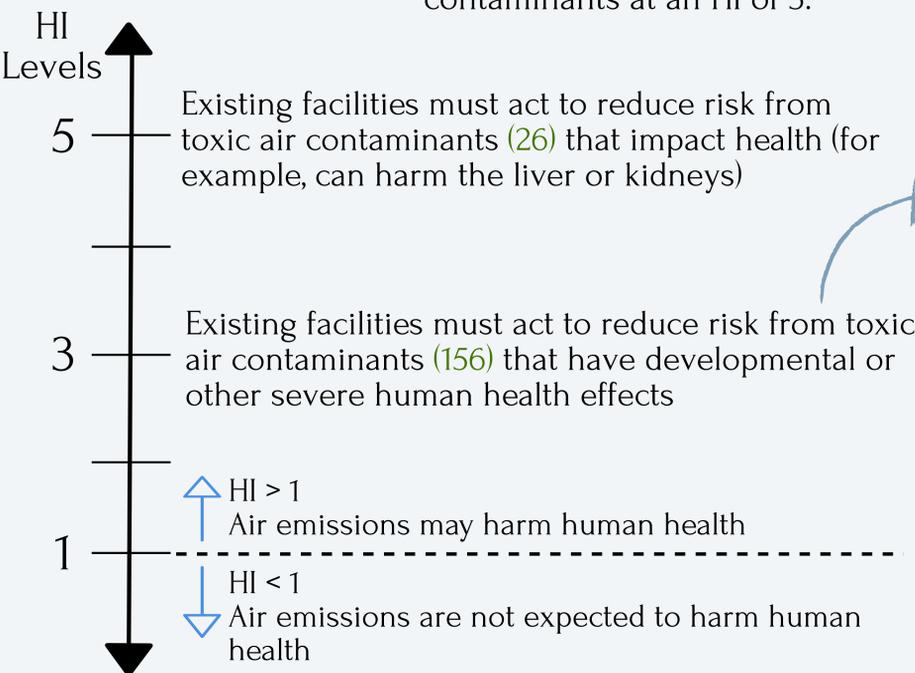
An HI is calculated by comparing the amount of each chemical present in the air with the amount of each chemical that is not expected to harm health. Scientists review available research about chemicals to identify these risk levels.

Cleaner Air Oregon: SB 1541 sets this benchmark (HI \geq 5) at which existing facilities must act to reduce risk from toxic air contaminants

Proposed HI Rules



The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will propose rules to regulate 156 toxic air contaminants at an HI of 3 and 28 toxic air contaminants at an HI of 5.



Proposed Categories of Severe Health Effects:

- Developmental Health Effects = 132 chemicals
- Reproductive Health Effects = 116 chemicals
- Multiple Target Organs are Impacted = 63 chemicals
- US Department of Transportation Inhalation Hazards = 13 chemicals

114 of the 156 chemicals are found in more than one severe health effect category.

For more information:



Check out our website! Updates will be posted on www.cleanerair.oregon.gov



To comment on the proposed rules, please participate in the public comment period that begins October 25th. Our website includes instructions on how to submit comments via email.