

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons / Benzopyrene - Hazardous Air Pollutant

1. *General characterization*

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are compounds made of 4 to 7 benzene rings. These compounds result from the combustion of fossil material (diesel engines) in the form of gas or particulate. The most studied one is benzo(a)pyrene.

2. *Air pollutant effects on human health*

- it can cause injuries of skin;
- inhalation can lead to bronchitis.

3. *Air pollutant effects on ecosystems*

- contamination of surface water and ground-water;
- soil contaminant;
- it bioconcentrates in the food chain.

4. **Target value** according to Law no. 104 from 15/06/2011 on ambient air quality (Romania)

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	
Benzopyrene	1 ng/m ³ - target value for the total content from PM10 fraction, averaged over a calendar year