

Sulfur Dioxide SO₂

1. General characterization

The Sulfur Dioxide is a colorless, bitter, non-flammable gas with a pungent odor, which irritates eyes and respiratory passageways.

2. Air pollutant effects on human health

- constriction of respiratory passageways of asthmatic persons and other sensitive persons (acute exposure);
- thickening of humus layer of trachea similarly to chronic bronchitis (chronic exposure);
- cough;
- breathing intensification;
- pulmonary emphysema.

3. Air pollutant effects on ecosystems

- in the atmosphere the sulfur dioxide is transformed into sulfuric acid that leads to the acidification phenomenon which appears under the form of acid rain and snow and dry acid particles;
- atmosphere composition change has impact on the regional climates;
- impact on the soil (formation and erosion);
- it destroys the numerical balance between animal species in biotopes;
- it produces corrosion on steel and other metals.

4. Specific Index

SO ₂ Concentration Range [µg/m ³]	Specific Index
0-49.99	1
50-74.99	2
75-124.99	3
125-349.99	4
350-499.99	5
>500	6