

B. CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1990 (CAAA)

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) are comprised of Title I and Title II which are summarized below.

Title I establishes criteria for attaining and maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These are Federal standards, developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various pollutants. Subsequent to the passage of the CAAA, the EPA released the nonattainment area designations and boundaries for the following pollutants:

- Ozone
- Carbon monoxide
- Small particulate matter

A "nonattainment" area is a geographic region of the U.S. that the EPA has designated as not meeting the NAAQS. Depending on the severity of the air quality problem, officials in each nonattainment area must take specified actions within a set time frame to reduce emissions and attain the NAAQS. The actions become more numerous and more stringent as the air quality problem gets worse. Title I also provides the following:

- A requirement that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for attaining the NAAQS;
- A requirement for greater integration of transportation and air quality planning procedures in order to address air quality concerns;
- The conditions under which EPA can impose sanctions, including the loss of Federal-aid highway funds.

Under Title II, the CAAA identify actions for reducing emissions from mobile sources, such as motor vehicles. Many of the requirements apply to manufacturers of vehicles and fuels.

Persons responsible for developing, adopting, or implementing transportation plans, programs, and projects, must understand how the CAAA affect their work.

The two brochures entitled, "Transportation Programs and Provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990" and "Air Quality Programs and Provisions of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991" describe CAAA regulations. These brochures are also available from the Government Printing Office.

The purpose of this Act is to improve air quality with near-term stringent deadlines and long-term regulations.