Appendix 8.4 Assessment Significance Criteria

Significance criteria	Definition
NEUTRAL	The development causes no change in concentrations.
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	The development gives rise to a SMALL change in concentrations and NO EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted.
A MINOR ADVERSE IMPACT	The development gives rise to a SMALL increase in concentrations and EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted with the development in place, or The development gives rise to a MODERATE increase in concentrations but NO EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted.
A MODERATE ADVERSE IMPACT	The development gives rise to a MODERATE increase in concentrations and EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted with the development in place, or The development gives rise to a LARGE increase in concentrations but NO EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted.
A MAJOR ADVERSE IMPACT	The development gives rise to a LARGE increase in concentrations and EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted.
A MINOR BENEFICIAL IMPACT	The development gives rise to a SMALL decrease in concentrations and EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted, or The development gives rise to a MODERATE decrease in concentrations but NO EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted.
A MODERATE BENEFICIAL IMPACT	The development gives rise to a MODERATE decrease in concentrations and EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted, or The development gives rise to a LARGE decrease in concentrations but NO EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted.
A MAJOR BENEFICIAL IMPACT	The development gives rise to a LARGE decrease in concentrations and EXCEEDENCES of the objectives are predicted.

Where the magnitude of changes in concentration have been defined as follows:

A SMALL change is a change of less than 1$\mu g/m^3$ (or less than 2.5% of the standard);

A MODERATE change is a change of ≥ 1 to <4$\mu g/m^3$ (or ≥ 2.5% to <10% of the standard);

A LARGE change is a change of greater than or equal to ≥ 4$\mu g/m^3$ (or ≥ 10% standard);

An EXCEEDENCE is defined as a concentration that is predicted to be above the standard (40$\mu g/m^3$) in, or after the objective achievement year (2005 for NO_2 and 2004 for PM_{10}) at a location where members of the public are likely to be exposed over the averaging period (1 year).