

Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S)

Hydrogen sulphide is a colourless, flammable gas that can be identified by humans at relatively low concentrations. It is characterized by a rotten egg odour. Hydrogen sulphide is extremely hazardous and toxic. The gas occurs naturally in coal pits, sulphur springs, gas wells, and biodegradation of sulphur-containing organic matter. It commonly exists in places such as sewers, sewage treatment plants, and manure stockpiles. Industrial sources of hydrogen sulphide include petroleum and natural gas extraction and refining, pulp and paper manufacturing, rayon textile production, leather tanning, chemical manufacturing, and waste disposal.

Hydrogen sulfide is a highly toxic and flammable gas. It is heavier than air and tends to accumulate at the bottom of poorly ventilated spaces. Although very pungent at first, it quickly deadens the sense of smell. Potential victims may be unaware of its presence until it is too late.

The current AAAQO for hydrogen sulphide are:

- 1-hour average AAAQO = 10 ppb; and
- 24-hour average AAAQO = 3 ppb