

Those of us who are unfortunate enough to live next door or very close by a "modern" allegedly AS4013 compliant wood heater receive a disproportionately high concentration of PM2.5s. Concentrations so high that we must seal our doors and windows, turn off our own gas heaters (externally flued) and remain indoors for much of the winter to try and protect our respiratory health.

Our concern is that any regulations or targets for heater emissions will be based on average NEPMs for large regions or zones and these will provide little protection for us unfortunates who live in the highly polluted micro environment adjacent to a heater.

In NSW many Local Councils rely on the definition of "excessive smoke" set out in the POEO Act to monitor emissions and react to neighbour's complaints. This clause talks about visible plumes lasting for minutes and travelling metres. Even inefficiently operated "modern" heaters that are emitting volumes of choking smoke will pass this test because the fine particulate emissions are virtually invisible, especially at night.

Clearly a new Standard that reduces the notional 4.0g/kg (or is it actual 10.0g/kg) will help everyone if it is real and enforced. But it seems to us that we need both a substantially reduced Standard that works in practice AND a national test that is portable and can be used at the boundaries of offending polluters by Local councils

It goes without saying that we need a moratorium on the sale of any new wood burners that cannot at least meet the 2005 NZ Standard of 1.5g/kg.....now.

I haven't seen any research, but it seems logical to expect that most of our health dollars will be spent on those who live in the heavily polluted micro environments I refer to..... especially on the elderly and asthmatics.

regards,

