Quantification and correction of natural particulate matter in Gibraltar

2014

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Executive summary

This report describes the methodologies applied to determine the contribution of African dust and sea salt to the 2014 ambient airborne PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar. It summarises the impact of this quantification on Gibraltar's compliance with the 2014 24-hr and annual mean PM_{10} Limit Value (LV) as specified in the European Commission's Air Quality Directive (AQD)[1]. The Directive allows natural contributions, where quantified, to be removed from the measured PM_{10} concentrations for the purposes of compliance assessment. The PM_{10} 24-hr LV is 50 µg m^{-3}, not to be exceeded on more than 35 days in a calendar year, and the PM_{10} annual mean LV is 40 µg m^{-3}.

The two natural sources of relevance to Gibraltar are (1) African dust, and (2) sea salt. The African dust component of the PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar has been quantified since 2006. Daily measurements to determine the contribution of sea salt to the PM_{10} only commenced in Gibraltar in April 2011, allowing a quantification of both sources for the first time.

The PM_{10} mass concentration is measured at Bleak House (classified under the Directive as an urban background station) and Rosia Road (classified under the Directive as an urban traffic station). In 2014, neither Rosia Road nor Bleak House exceeded the PM_{10} 24-hr LV or the annual mean LV.

Table E1 shows summary statistics for both monitoring stations. The table shows the original, uncorrected PM_{10} mass concentrations from both air quality monitoring stations in Gibraltar, and the corrected mass concentration based on the quantification of African dust and then the correction for African dust and sea salt together. Gibraltar was compliant with both the annual mean and 24-hr PM_{10} LV in 2014 before the natural correction was applied. Table E1 also demonstrates that African dust and sea salt remain significant contributors to measured PM_{10} concentrations in Gibraltar.

Table E1: Summary of results of natural correction for compliance with AQD LVs, 2014.

	Rosia Road (urban traffic)		Bleak House (urban background)	
	Annual mean (µg m^{-3})	Number of exceedances* of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV	Annual mean (µg m^{-3})	Number of exceedances* PM_{10} 24-hr LV
Uncorrected PM_{10} mass concentration	36	17	28	12
Corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of African dust correction factor	33	11	24	6
Corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of African dust and sea salt correction factor	30	8	-----**	-----**

* 35 permissible exceedances per annum.
** Daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction not measured at Bleak House.

[1] Directive 2008/50/EC (CAFE Directive), http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32008L0050:EN:NOT.

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1 Introduction

This report describes the methodologies applied to determine the contribution of African dust and sea salt to the 2014 ambient airborne PM_{10} (hereafter simply referred to as PM_{10}) mass concentration in Gibraltar. It summarises the impact of this quantification on Gibraltar's compliance with the 2014 PM_{10} annual and 24-hr Limit Value (LV) as specified in the Air Quality Directive (AQD).

European Directive 1999/30/EC[2] specifies that Member States are obliged to implement action plans where the LVs for air pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_X), particulate matter (PM_{10}) and lead in ambient air, are exceeded due to causes other than natural events. In July 2010 the AQD superseded the Framework Directive (96/62/EC) and the first three Daughter Directives (1999/30/EC, 2000/69/EC, and 2002/3/EC). As part of the AQD, the Commission issued further guidance for assessing and reporting of air pollutant concentrations where natural sources contribute to the exceedance of air pollutant LVs. Member States are required to inform the Commission in instances where natural events result in air pollutant concentrations that are significantly in excess of typical background concentrations. Member States are expected to provide justification to demonstrate that the measured exceedances were due to natural events. The mechanism for reporting concentrations to the Commission is the annual reporting questionnaire. The annual reporting questionnaire includes specific forms to allow the contribution from natural sources, and corrected PM_{10} concentrations, adjusted for this natural component, to be reported. The two natural sources of relevance to Gibraltar are (1) African dust, and (2) sea salt.

The African dust component of the PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar has been quantified since 2006. A significant number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV measured in Gibraltar arise due to African dust events which affect the Iberian Peninsula as a whole. There is considerable year-to-year variability in the number of African dust events. Typically African dust events arise due to a combination of drought in North Africa and synoptic-scale (e.g., over a horizontal scale of 1000 km) meteorology.

Gibraltar is a peninsula and therefore the impact of sea salt on the PM_{10} mass concentration is likely to be significant under certain meteorological conditions. Synoptic scale meteorological events and sea state contribute to the generation of sea spray and therefore the contribution of sea salt to the PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar. Daily measurements to determine the contribution of sea salt to the PM_{10} mass concentration commenced in Gibraltar on the 8th April 2011. Therefore the day-to-day variation in the contribution of sea salt to the PM_{10} mass concentration can be assessed.

In 2014 the Gibraltar Air Quality Monitoring Network recorded 17 exceedances, based on measurements taken at the Rosia Road air quality monitoring station[3], of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV (50 µg m^{-3}). The AQD permits up to 35 exceedances of the LV per calendar year. This exercise is therefore an essential assessment to demonstrate compliance (or otherwise) after accounting for the contribution made by natural sources to the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration.

The impact of both natural sources: African dust and sea salt was assessed in 2014. In order to provide a complete PM_{10} daily data set corrected for both natural sources it has been necessary to undertake the African dust quantification methodology prior to removing sea salt due to concerns that undertaking a sea salt correction first may affect the application of the prescribed African dust quantification methodology.

[2] Directive 1999/30/EC (the first Daughter Directive): Article 5, section 4.
[3] Station information can be found at http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi/stats.php?t_action=info&t=3&station_id=GIB1&map=&g=7&s=&dy=

2 African Dust

2.1 Method

This section presents the methodology used to determine the contribution of African dust events to the PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar. The term "African dust correction factor" refers to the mass concentration of PM_{10} which was subtracted from the measured PM_{10} mass concentration to account for the contribution of African dust events to elevated PM_{10} mass concentrations in Gibraltar.

Overall, two forms of African dust correction are applied: the first to the measured daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration, the second to the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration (determined from the daily mean measurements). The results of the 2014 African dust correction are presented here.

For the preparation of on-going mandatory reporting to the Commission, in-line with the Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), the Spanish authorities identified specific days in 2014 on which regional background PM_{10} mass concentrations across the Iberian Peninsula were significantly enhanced by African dust events[4]. These events are referred to as "African dust days" and were assessed using a qualitative methodology developed by Querol et al.[5].

The method for identifying African dust days was discussed at the workshop "Contribution of natural sources to PM levels in Europe" organised by the Joint Research Council, Ispra in October 2006 and was reviewed in the subsequent workshop report[6]. The methodology was incorporated into a Commission staff working paper establishing guidelines for demonstration and subtraction of exceedances attributable to natural sources under the Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe[7]. For consistency, this approach has been adopted by Gibraltar for reporting exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr and annual mean LV due to African dust events to the Commission.

2014 PM_{10} mass concentrations from the regional background stations across the Iberian Peninsula, as shown in Figure 1, were used to determine the regional background PM_{10} mass concentration using methodology developed by Escudero et al.[8]. This allowed the increase in the PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar due to African dust events to be derived.

Historically, the absence of a single regional background station to be paired with Gibraltar meant that the regional background PM_{10} mass concentration was derived from several Spanish regional background stations. Since 2009, the PM_{10} mass concentration measurements from the regional background monitoring station at Alcornocales were available for the purposes of quantifying the increase in the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar due to African dust events. The regional background PM_{10} monitoring station at Alcornocales is located significantly closer to Gibraltar than the other Spanish regional background monitoring stations shown in Figure 1. Given its proximity to Gibraltar, the African dust correction factor at the Alcornocales air quality monitoring station will be more representative of the situation in Gibraltar. For this reason Alcornocales continues to be used as the regional background monitoring station paired with the Gibraltar Air Quality Network stations in order to account for the impact of African dust. The methodology employed to calculate the regional

[4] Perez, N., Querol, X., Orio, A., Reina, F. and Pallarés, M.: Episodis naturales de partículas 2013. CSIC, INM, CIEMAT, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente Dirección General de Calidad y Evaluación Ambiental, 2014. http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/atmosfera-y-calidad-del-aire/Episodios_Naturales_2013_tcm7-323494.pdf

[5] Querol, X., Alastuey, A., Escudero, M., Pey, J., Castillo, S., Perez, N., Ferreira, F., Franco, N., Marques, F., Cuevas, E., Alonso, S., Artinano, B., Salvador, P., de la Rosa, J., Jimenez, S., Cristobal, A., Pallares, M., and Gonzalez, A.: Methodology for the identification of natural African dust episodes in PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$, and justification with regards to the exceedances of the PM_{10} daily limit value. For Ministerio de Medio Ambiente-Spain and Ministerio do Ambiente, Ordenamento do Territorio e Desenvolvimento Regional – Portugal, 2007.

[6] Marelli, L.: Contribution of natural sources to air pollution levels in the EU – a technical basis for the development of guidance for the Member States. Post-workshop report from 'Contribution of natural sources to PM levels in Europe' workshop organised by JRC, Ispra, October 2006. EUR 22779 EN, 2007.

[7] Council of the European Union: Commission staff working paper establishing guidelines for demonstration and subtraction of exceedances attributable to natural sources under the Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. SEC(2011) 208 final, 2011, http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/legislation/pdf/sec_2011_0208.pdf.

[8] Escudero, M., Querol, X., Alastuey, A., Perez, N., Ferreira, F., Alonso, S., Rodriguez, S., and Cuevas, E.: A methodology for the quantification of the net African dust load in air quality monitoring networks. Atmospheric Environment, 41 (26), 5516-5524, doi:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2007.04.047, 2007.

background PM_{10} mass concentration, and subsequently the increase in the PM_{10} mass concentration due to African dust events from multiple stations, was discussed in previous studies[9,10,11].

Figure 1: Spanish regional background stations used in the determination of African dust days.

*** Station locations are approximate**

The number of days allocated as "African dust days" refers to the total number of days for which the African dust correction factor was applied to the 2014 daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration measured in Gibraltar. These do not necessarily correspond to the days of exceedance of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV measured in Gibraltar. The aim of this exercise is not just to correct exceedance days, but to correct the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration on *any* day on which there was a significant contribution to the measured PM_{10} mass concentration due to an African dust event. This approach allows for the calculation of a 2014 corrected annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration for Gibraltar for comparison with the annual PM_{10} LV stated in the Directive in addition to the 24-hr assessment.

The daily regional background measured PM_{10} mass concentration for Alcornocales was calculated by initially removing the African dust days from the PM_{10} mass concentration measurements. A moving 30th percentile across a 30 day period centred on the day for which the calculation was being made (i.e., the day of the calculation is day 15 of the 30 day period) was derived. This calculated value provides a measure of the regional background PM_{10} mass concentration in the absence of African dust events.

The calculated regional background PM_{10} mass concentration was subtracted from the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration measured at the regional background monitoring station (Alcornocales) to provide an African dust increment for that day. On occasions when negative increments were calculated these values were omitted from further calculations. The African dust increment on each day is subtracted from the daily mean PM_{10} concentration measured at the station being corrected (Rosia Road). This results in series of "corrected" daily mean PM_{10} concentrations from which the number of days of exceedance and annual mean can be re-calculated for assessment against the LV stated in the Directive.

[9] Kent, A.J.: 2006 African dust quantification. http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi/documents/Gib_natural_quantification_2006_v2.pdf
[10] Kent, A.J.: 2007 African dust quantification. http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi/documents/Gib_natural_quantification_2007_v1.pdf
[11] Kent, A.J.: 2008 African dust quantification. http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi/documents/Gib_natural_quantification_2008_v1.pdf

The use of the measurements from the Alcornocales regional background PM_{10} monitoring station made accounting for the contribution of African dust events to the PM_{10} mass concentration in Gibraltar simpler and more robust. This approach avoids the need to establish a regional background PM_{10} mass concentration based on a range of measurements taken across a wide spatial extent as used in 2006-08[9,10,11]. It is unclear whether the PM_{10} mass concentration from the Alcornocales station will be available in future years, therefore it may be necessary to revert to the previous approach.

2.2 African dust quantification results

The results of the application of the African dust correction factor to the 2014 daily mean PM_{10} mass concentrations measured at the Rosia Road and Bleak House[12] monitoring stations are summarised below. Table 1 provides the number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV before and after application of the correction.

Table 2 summarises the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration at the two air quality monitoring stations in Gibraltar before and after application of the correction.

Table 1: Number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV of 50 µg m^{-3} (35 permissible exceedances per year), 2014.

	Rosia Road (urban traffic)	Bleak House (urban background)
Number of exceedances based on the uncorrected PM_{10} mass concentration	17	12
Number of exceedances based on the corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of the African dust correction factor	11	6

Table 2: Summary of the 2014 annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration (annual mean PM_{10} LV = 40 µg m^{-3}), 2014.

	Rosia Road (urban traffic)	Bleak House (urban background)
Uncorrected PM_{10} mass concentration (µg m^{-3})	36	28
Corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of the African dust correction factor (µg m^{-3})	33	24

Table 1 and

Table 2 demonstrate that the uncorrected measured concentrations complied with the LV prior to the application of a correction for natural sources. The number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV were 17 and 12, at Rosia Road and Bleak House, respectively, compared to 35 permitted by the Directive. The 2014 annual mean PM_{10} mass concentrations were 36 µg m^{-3} and 28 µg m^{-3} at Rosia Road and Bleak House, respectively. The annual mean PM_{10} LV is 40 µg m^{-3}.

The application of African dust quantification and correction methodology in 2014 reduced the number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV and the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration, as specified in the AQD. In order to account completely for natural sources, a further correction can be made to account for the contribution to measured concentrations from sea salt.

[12] Station information can be found at http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi/index.php?lg=&t_action=info&station_id=GIB2&t=3&map=

3 Sea salt

3.1 Overview

This section presents the methodology used to determine the contribution of sea salt in Gibraltar to the:

- Monthly mean total ambient airborne particulate matter (PM_X)
- Daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration

Prior to 2010 no formal quantification of the contribution of sea salt to the daily or annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration was attempted in Gibraltar. Previous Spanish research[13] indicated that sea salt contributed ~10% of the PM_{10} mass concentration (approximately 4 µg m^{-3}) in the nearby Spanish town of La Línea de la Concepción, located just over the Gibraltar-Spain border.

The Commission staff working paper establishing guidelines for demonstration and subtraction of exceedances attributable to natural sources[7] states that due to the episodic nature of sea salt emissions, accurate daily quantification is required in order to apply a correction to the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration. Accounting for the sea salt contribution to the PM_{10} mass concentration, termed the PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction, reported in the Questionnaire also requires that the sea salt mass fraction be determined at each station reported.

The term "sea salt correction factor" refers to the daily PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction which was subtracted from the measured daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration. The sea salt mass fraction of PM_{10} was determined on a daily basis from 8th April 2011 onwards at the Rosia Road monitoring station. This correction factor was applied after the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration was corrected for the influence of African dust. The results of the 2014 sea salt correction are presented here.

3.2 Sampling methodology

A comprehensive description of the methods used to quantify daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction in Gibraltar are contained within the "Measurement of sea salt aerosol in Gibraltar" report[14]. The report summarises the operation of a dedicated Partisol sampler to determine the daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction at the Rosia Road air quality monitoring station.

3.2.1 Partisol sampler

Measurement of the daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction was provided by a dedicated Thermo Scientific Partisol Plus 2025 Sequential Air Sampler installed at the Rosia Road monitoring station. Following exposure in the field, the exposed Partisol filters were returned to the laboratory. The water soluble components of the sampled particulate matter, including sea salt, were extracted from the sample filters by washing with deionised water. Ion chromatography was used to determine the chloride (Cl^-) and sodium (Na^+) concentrations of the extracts. The daily mean mass concentration (µg m^{-3}) of the chloride and sodium ions in the sampled particulate matter were calculated using Equation (1) quoted in Lingard (2012):

$$\frac{\text{ion concentration (ppm) x volume of extract solution (ml)}}{\text{volumetric sample flow rate over exposure period } (\text{m}^3)} . \qquad \text{Equation (1)}$$

Note: 1 ppm = 1 µg ml^{-1}.

[13] Querol, X., Alastuey, A., Moreno, T., Viana, M.M, Castillo, S., Pey, J., Rodriguez, S., Artinano, B., Salvador, P., Sanchez, M., Garcia Dos Santos, S., Herce Garraleta, M.D., Fernandez-Patier, R., Moreno-Grau, S., Negral, L., Minguillon, M.C., Monfort, E., Sanz, M.J., Palomo-Marin, R., Pinilla-Gil, E., Cuevas, E., de la Rosa, J., and Sanchez de la Campa, A.: Spatial and temporal variations in airborne particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) across Spain 1999-2005, Atmospheric Environment, 42(17), 3964-3979, doi: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2006.10.071, 2006.

[14] Lingard J. J. N. (2012). Measurement of sea salt aerosol in Gibraltar. http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi/assets/documents/Quantification_of_the_contribution_of_sea_salt_final.pdf.

3.3 Calculation of the PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction

Three methods are proposed[7] for the calculation of the PM_X and PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction. These methods infer the PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction from the measured chloride (Cl^-) and/or sodium (Na^+) concentrations. The proposed European method assumes that sea salt is composed only of NaCl and that all the chloride and sodium ions in the sampled PM_{10} are associated with NaCl. Therefore, according to composition of sea salt, the PM_X and PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction can be calculated thus:

$$\text{Sea salt } (\mu g\ m^{-3}) = \frac{100}{55} \times Cl^- = 1.8 \times Cl^-, \text{ or} \qquad \text{Equation (2)}$$

$$\text{Sea salt } (\mu g\ m^{-3}) = \frac{100}{30.6} \times Na^+ = 3.27 \times Na^+, \text{ or} \qquad \text{Equation (3)}$$

$$\text{Sea salt } (\mu g\ m^{-3}) = (Na^+ + Cl^-) \times 1.168. \qquad \text{Equation (3)}$$

Equation (2) was used to determine the PM_X and PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction. This is consistent with the UK approach[15] where a scaling factor of 1.648[16] is applied to infer the PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction from chloride ion measurements, for pollutant mapping purposes. The use of chloride ion was potentially subject to positive and negative artefacts. The chloride concentration can be enhanced through the emission of hydrochloric acid (HCl) gas to the atmosphere from high-temperature combustion processes such as coal burning and incineration[7]. European HCl emissions have decreased in recent years due to the reduction in the use of coal as a fuel in power generation and flue gas abatement measures.

This approach was adopted as PM_{10} mass concentrations in Gibraltar were subject to enhancement due to African dust events: the horizontal transport of wind-blown dust from North Africa. One key component of wind-blown dust is sodium. Therefore the use of sodium to determine the PM_X and PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction may have been subject to enhancement due to the presence of sodium in the sampled PM_X and PM_{10} due to wind-blown dust.

Only the daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction measurements from the Partisol sampler located at the Rosia Road monitoring station are used for the natural sources correction for compliance reporting, in accordance with the Guidance issued by the Commission[7].

The contribution of natural sources (African dust and sea salt) to the PM_{10} mass concentration measured at the Rosia Road monitoring station was achieved by firstly subtracting of the contribution to the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration from African dust. Secondly, the daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction was subtracted to provide the daily and annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration corrected for natural sources.

3.4 Sea salt quantification results

The results of the application of the African dust and sea salt correction factor to the 2014 daily mean PM_{10} mass concentrations measured at the Rosia Road and Bleak House[17] monitoring stations are summarised below. The correction for the contribution of sea salt to the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration was applied after the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration was corrected for the contribution from African dust.

For clarity and comparison the number of PM_{10} 24-hr LV exceedances and annual mean PM_{10} mass concentrations are presented below to demonstrate the contribution of African dust, then sea salt, to

[15] Brookes, D.M., Stedman, J.R., Grice, S.E., Kent, A.J., Walker, H.L., Cooke, S.L., Vincent, K.J., Lingard, J.J.N., Bush, T.J., and Abbott, J. (2011). UK modelling under the Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) for 2010 covering the following air quality pollutants: SO_2, NO_X, NO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, lead, benzene, CO, and ozone. Report to The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Government and the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, AEAT/ENV/R/3215 Issue 1. http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/reports/cat09/1204301513_AQD2010mapsrep_master_v0.pdf
[16] The use of a scaling factor of 1.648 treats other alkali and alkaline metal components of sea salt (magnesium, calcium and potassium) as sodium.
[17] Station information can be found at http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi/index.php?lg=&t_action=info&station_id=GIB2&t=3&map=

these PM_{10} metrics. Table 3 provides the number of PM_{10} 24-hr LV exceedances before and after application of the complete 2014 natural correction (African dust and sea salt). Table 4 summarises the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration at the two monitoring stations in Gibraltar before and after application of the complete 2014 natural correction (African dust and sea salt).

Table 3: Number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV of 50 µg m^{-3} (35 permissible exceedances per year), 2014.

	Rosia Road (urban traffic)	Bleak House (urban background)
Number of exceedances based on the uncorrected PM_{10} mass concentration	17	12
Number of exceedances based on the corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of the African dust correction factor	11	6
Number of exceedances based on the corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of the African dust correction factor and the sea salt correction factor	8	-----*

* Daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction not measured at Bleak House.

Table 4: Summary of the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration (annual mean PM_{10} LV = 40 µg m^{-3}), 2014.

	Rosia Road (urban traffic)	Bleak House (urban background)
Uncorrected PM_{10} mass concentration (µg m^{-3})	36	28
Corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of the African dust correction factor (µg m^{-3})	33	24
Corrected PM_{10} mass concentration after application of the African dust correction factor and the sea salt correction factor (µg m^{-3})	30	-----*

* Daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction not measured at Bleak House.

Table 3 shows that after African dust and sea salt were quantified and removed from measured concentrations at Rosia Road, 8 exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV remained, below the 35 permissible for compliance with the AQD. Measurements at Bleak House could not be corrected to account for the contribution of sea salt to the measured PM_{10} mass concentration at this site because the daily mean PM_{10} sea salt mass fraction was not measured at this station. A total of 12 exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV at Bleak House air quality monitoring station were recorded, reduced to six after natural corrections (African dust only) were applied.

Table 4 shows that the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentrations measured at the Rosia Road and Bleak House air quality monitoring stations were compliant with the annual mean LV before accounting for the contribution of natural sources. The daily mean PM_{10} mass concentrations from Bleak House could not be corrected to account for sea salt, due to the absence of specific measurement equipment at the station. The application of African dust quantification and correction methodology in 2014 reduced the number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV and the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration, as specified in the AQD. In order to account completely for natural sources, a further correction can be made to account for the contribution to measured concentrations from sea salt. Figure 2 shows the variation in the number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV in Gibraltar for the period 2005-2014. The figure shows the effect of the application of the African dust correction for the full period, and the sea salt correction (for 2011 onwards) to the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration measurements from the Rosia Road monitoring station. The red dashed line represents the number of permissible exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV (35 per year) allowed by the AQD. Figure 2 allows the effect of application of the

African dust correction factor to be seen in the context of compliance with the AQD over several years, as well as the application of the sea salt correction this year.

Figure 3 shows the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration measured at the Rosia Road monitoring station including and excluding African dust correction from 2005-2014, and the sea salt correction from 2011 onwards The red dashed line represents the annual mean PM_{10} LV. In Figure 3, the blue line shows the uncorrected annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration whilst the darker green line shows the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration after accounting for African dust. The lighter green line shows the effect of the sea salt correction factor in further reducing the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration from 2011 onwards.

Note that the historical corrections presented within this report supersede those values presented in previous reports as the most up to date and complete methodology.

Figure 2: Number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV measured at the Rosia Road monitoring station before and after application of the African dust and sea salt (SS) correction, 2005-2014.

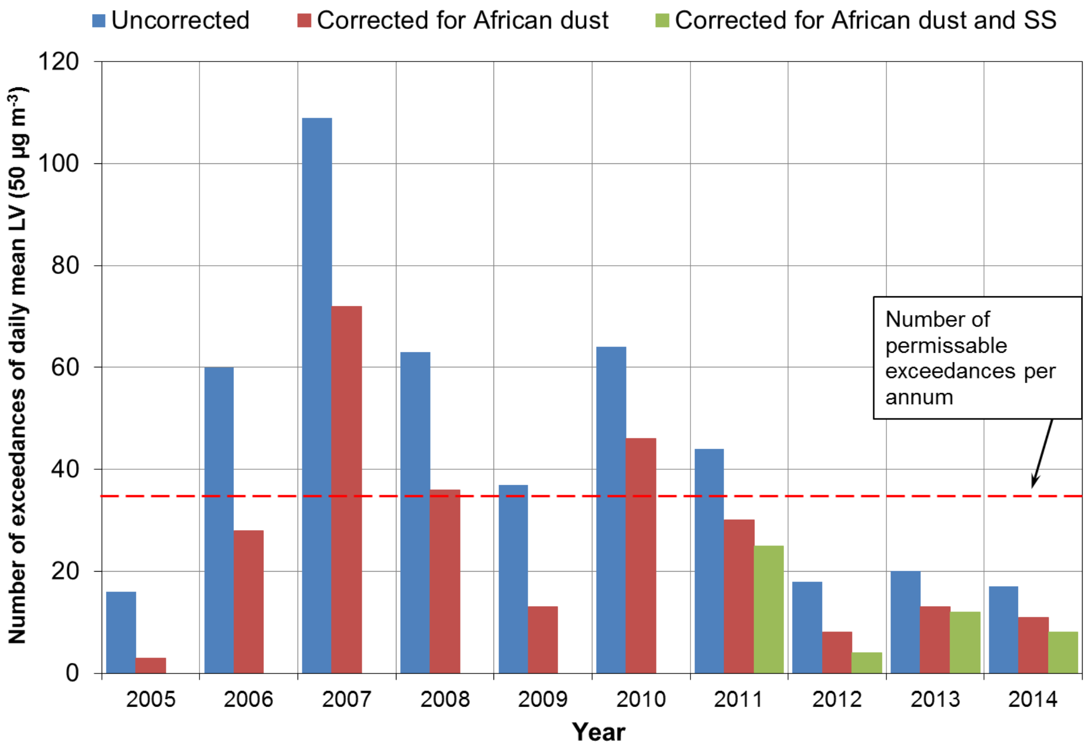
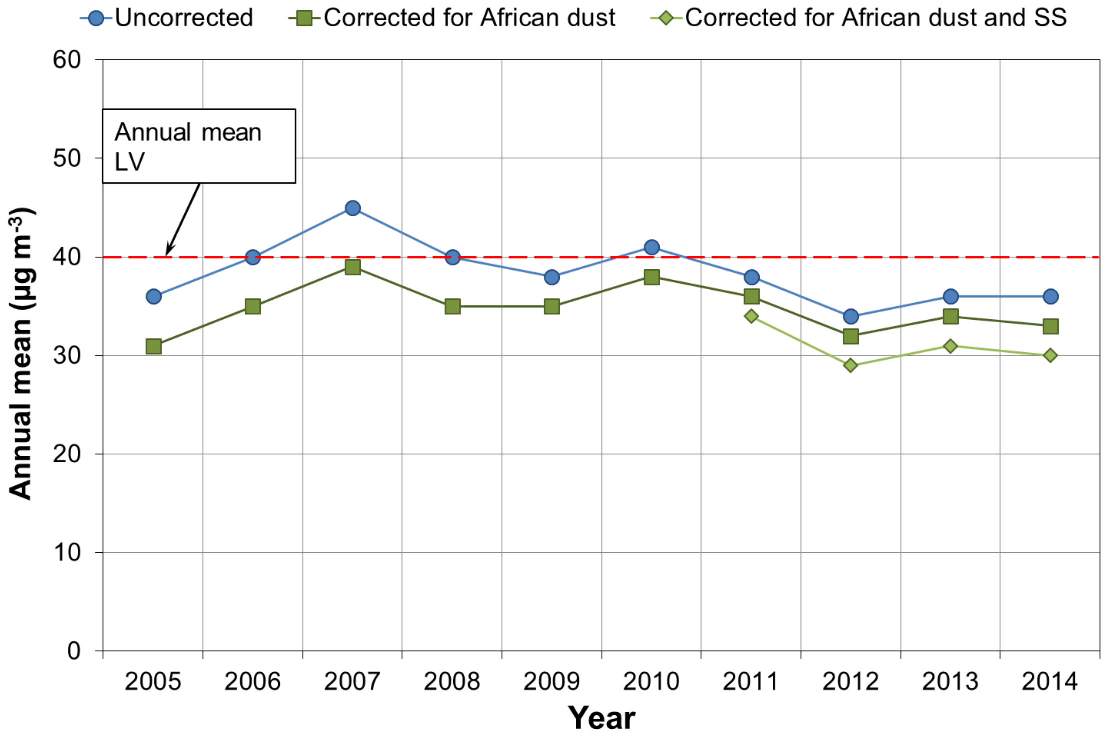


Figure 3: Annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration measured at the Rosia Road monitoring station before and after application of the African dust and sea salt (SS) correction factor, 2005-2014.



4 Summary

- In 2014 Gibraltar was compliant with the PM_{10} 24-hr and annual mean LVs in the AQD before natural sources were quantified and removed from daily mean PM_{10} mass concentrations measured at both Rosia Road and Bleak House monitoring stations.

- Application of African dust correction (only) to the daily mean PM_{10} mass concentration measurements from the Rosia Road monitoring station reduced the number of exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV from 17 to 11.

- Application of African dust correction (only) to the annual mean PM_{10} mass concentration measurements from the Rosia Road air quality monitoring station reduced the annual mean concentration from 36 µg m^{-3} to 33 µg m^{-3}.

- The additional application of the sea salt correction (to African dust corrected PM_{10} concentrations) resulted in 8 exceedances of the PM_{10} 24-hr LV and resulted in an annual mean PM_{10} concentration of 30 µg m^{-3} at the Rosia Road air quality monitoring station.

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