

Box 2.3 of LAQM.TG(09) shows how to predict nitrogen dioxide concentrations at different distances from roads. The calculation specifies that distances should be measured from the kerb of a road. I am interested in a road along which cars are parked most of the time, so moving traffic does not use the nearside lane. Should I measure my distance to the kerb or to the edge of the nearest trafficked lane?

Box 2.3 of LAQM.TG(09), and the associated calculator, provide a means of adjusting concentrations measured at one distance from the kerb to give the expected concentration at a different distance. The starting point for the fall-off curve is more correctly the edge of the carriageway with flowing traffic, i.e. for motorways this is the edge of the inside lane and not the edge of the hard shoulder. For simplicity this has been described as the kerb. There are some urban roads where the first lane is used for parking and therefore the flowing traffic is away from the physical kerb. In these circumstances it is appropriate to treat the edge of the road as being the edge of the carriageway with flowing traffic, i.e. the nominal 'kerb' will be around 2 m from the physical kerb. Using this definition of the start point for the fall-off curve will make a difference to the calculated concentrations, as the fall-off over the first two metres is particularly steep.

The rule should thus be to treat the 'kerb' as being the edge of the carriageway with flowing traffic.

There will be circumstances where parked cars are only present for a part of the day. In these cases the parked cars should be ignored if they are not present through the period 07:00 – 19:00, i.e. distances should be taken to the physical kerb whenever traffic passes near to the physical kerb through most of the day.

There will be other situations where local authorities may consider using a distance other than to the physical kerb and these should be determined on a case by case basis according to the officer's judgment. Where the distances used are not taken to the physical kerb, justification should be given.