

## 2.B.1 - Ammonia Production

### Short description

Category Code	Method					AD					EF				
2.B.1	T2					PS					D				
Key Category	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	NM VOC	CO	BC	Pb	Hg	Cd	Diox	PAH	HCB	TSP	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
2.B.1	-	-/-	-/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**T** = key source by Trend **L** = key source by Level

Methods	
<b>D</b>	Default
<b>T1</b>	Tier 1 / Simple Methodology *
<b>T2</b>	Tier 2*
<b>T3</b>	Tier 3 / Detailed Methodology *
<b>C</b>	CORINAIR
<b>CS</b>	Country Specific
<b>M</b>	Model

\* as described in the EMEP/EEA Emission Inventory Guidebook - 2019, in the group specific chapters.

AD - Data Source for Activity Data	
<b>NS</b>	National Statistics
<b>RS</b>	Regional Statistics
<b>IS</b>	International Statistics
<b>PS</b>	Plant Specific data
<b>As</b>	Associations, business organisations
<b>Q</b>	specific Questionnaires (or surveys)
<b>M</b>	Model / Modelled
<b>C</b>	Confidential
EF - Emission Factors	
<b>D</b>	Default (EMEP Guidebook)
<b>C</b>	Confidential
<b>CS</b>	Country Specific
<b>PS</b>	Plant Specific data
<b>M</b>	Model / Modelled

Ammonia is synthesised from hydrogen and nitrogen, using the Haber-Bosch process. Hydrogen is produced from synthetic gas – which in turn is produced from natural gas – via a highly integrated process, steam reforming. Nitrogen is produced via air dissociation. The various plant types involved in the production of ammonia cannot be divided into individual units nor be considered as independent process parts, due to the highly integrated character of the procedure. In **steam reforming**, the following process parts are distinguished:

- ACP - Advanced Conventional Process - with a fired primary reformer and secondary reforming with excess air (stoichiometric H/N ratio)
- RPR - Reduced Primary Reformer Process - under mild conditions in a fired primary reformer and secondary splitting with excess air (sub-stoichiometric H/N ratio)

and

- HPR - Heat Exchange Primary Reformer Process – autothermic splitting with heat exchange using a steam reformer heated with process gas (heat exchange reformer) and a separate secondary reformer or a combined autothermic reformer using excess air or enriched air (sub-stoichiometric or stoichiometric H/N ratio).

The following process is also used for ammonia synthesis: **Partial oxidation**, which is the gasification of fractions of heavy mineral oil or vacuum residues in the production of synthetic gas. Most plants operate using steam-reforming, with naphtha or natural gas. Only 3 % of European plants use partial oxidation.

The production decrease of more than 15 % in the first year after German reunification was the result of a market shakeup, over 2/3 of which was borne by the new German Länder. The production level then remained nearly constant in the succeeding years until 1994. The reasons for the re-increase as of 1995 back to the 1990 level are not understood; the re-increase may however be due to a change in statistical survey methods. After 1990, production levels fluctuated only slightly. Since then, the rate of ammonia production has been stable.

## Methodology

There were five plants in Germany which produced ammonia, using both processes. But since the mid of 2014 there are only four left. Both processes are still used, the Steam-Reforming-Process and the partial oxidation.

### Activity data

As the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from ammonia production are a key category, activity data are collected plant-specifically: The AD are delivered based on a cooperation agreement with the ammonia producers and the IVA (Industrieverband Agrar). The plant specific data are made anonymous by the IVA and then are send to the UBA.

### Emission factor

For NO<sub>x</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>, the default emission factors of the CORINAIR Guidebooks of 1 kg/t NH<sub>3</sub> for NO<sub>x</sub> and respectively 0.01kg/t NH<sub>3</sub> for NH<sub>3</sub> are used (EEA, 2013) <sup>1)</sup>.

## Recalculations

With **activity data** and **emission factors** remaining unrevised, no recalculations have been carried out compared to last year's submission.



For pollutant-specific information on recalculated emission estimates for Base Year and 2018, please see the pollutant specific recalculation tables following [chapter 8.1 - Recalculations](#).

## Planned improvements

At the moment, no category-specific improvements are planned.

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<sup>1)</sup> EEA, 2013: EMEP EEA Emission Inventory Guidebook 2013, Aug 2013: page 15, table 3.2: Tier 1 emission factors for source category 2.B.1 Ammonia production