



Air pollution measurement exercise Valletta/Birgu

By means of an ultrafine particle counter, measurements were yesterday taken close to Victoria Gate in Valletta and Birgu at different times of shipping activity. These were the results:

Ultrafine particle measurements at Victoria Gate, Valletta

Night time (very low ship activity) - below 1,600ppt/cm³

Mid-day (moderate ship activity) - around 4,000ppt/cm³

During ship transit between Birgu & Valletta - up to 85,000ppt/cm³

Ultrafine particle measurements taken on small ferry to Birgu

Maximum measurement - 500,000ppt/cm³

Average - 140,000ppt/cm³

1,000 - 2,000ppt/cm³ of UFPs is considered as 'clean air'. Ultrafine particles (UFPs) are airborne particulate matter of nanoscale size (less than 100 nanometres in diameter). Regulations currently do not exist for this size of air particles, although it is scientifically proven that these have severe health impacts.