Reviewer’s report

Title: Air Pollution and Health in Sri Lanka: A Review of Epidemiologic Studies

Version: 1 Date: 4 February 2010

Reviewer: Claudio Pelucchi

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript is of limited interest because it reviews an issue (the relation between air pollution and health in Sri Lanka) for which a few data of sufficient quality are available.

The manuscript is clear and well-written, but there are some errors throughout the text, particularly with references. The ones that I could find are listed below. I suggest that the authors revise the text carefully.

I have a number of specific comments (all of these are Minor Essential Revisions):

1. Please add two references at page 5, lines 4 (after “(USEPA) standards”) and 10 (after “<20 µg/m3”).
2. Page 5, lines 12-14. From “the three-year average...” to “and in a residential area was 58.82...”. This sentence seems to contrast with the one (a few lines before) stating that there is only one air quality monitoring station in Sri Lanka. Please explain.
3. Page 8. Search strategy. Please add more details on the search string used. How were the search terms combined? Or were they just entered separately in Medline?
4. Page 9. Reference to “Figure 1” is wrong. It should be “Figure 4”.
5. Page 12. The reference to paper from Elangasinghe (ref. #40) is missing.
6. References 22 and 41 seem to refer to the same research. If this is the case, one can be deleted.
7. All reference numbers in Tables 2 and 3 are wrong. Please check.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests