

5.5 STANDARDS OF NOISE POLLUTION

Ambient Noise Pollution Standards:

Whereas the increasing ambient noise levels in public places from various sources, inter-alia,

- Industrial activity
- Construction activity
- Fire crackers
- Sound producing instruments
- Generator sets
- Loud speakers
- Public address systems
- Music systems
- Vehicular horns
- Other mechanical devices have deleterious effects on human health and the psychological well being of the people.

Area Code	Category of Area / Zone	Limits in dB(A) Leq*	
		Day Time	Night Time
(A)	Industrial area	75	70
(B)	Commercial area	65	55
(C)	Residential area	55	45
(D)	Silence Zone	50	40

Table 5.5.1 Ambient Air Quality Standards in respect of Noise

- Day time shall mean from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.
- Night time shall mean from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.

- dB(A) Leq denotes the time weighted average of the level of sound in decibels on scale A which is relatable to human hearing.
- A “decibel” is a unit in which noise is measured.
- “A”, in dB(A) Leq, denotes the frequency weighting in the measurement of noise and corresponds to frequency response characteristics of the human ear.

Leq: It is an energy mean of the noise level over a specified period.

Responsibility as to enforcement of noise pollution control measures.-

- The noise levels in any area / zone shall not exceed the ambient air quality standards in respect of noise as specified in the Schedule.
- The authority shall be responsible for the enforcement of noise pollution control measures and the due compliance of the ambient air quality standards in respect of noise.
- The respective State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees in consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board shall collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data relating to noise pollution and measures devised for its effective prevention, control and abatement.

Restrictions on the use of loud speakers / public address system and sound producing instruments.-

- A loud speaker or a public address system shall not be used except after obtaining written permission from the authority.
- A loud speaker or a public address system or any sound producing instrument or a musical instrument or a sound amplifier shall not be used at night time except in closed premises for communication within, like auditoria, conference rooms, community halls, banquet halls or during a public emergency.
- Not with standing anything contained in sub-rule (2), the State Government may subject to such terms and conditions as are necessary to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud speakers or public address system and the like during night hours (between 10.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding fifteen days in all

during a calendar year. The concerned State Government shall generally specify in advance, the number and particulars of the days on which such exemption would be operative.

- The noise level at the boundary of the public place, where loudspeaker or public address system or any other noise source is being used shall not exceed 10 dB (A) above the ambient noise standards for the area or 75 dB (A) whichever is lower;
- The peripheral noise level of a privately owned sound system or a sound producing instrument shall not, at the boundary of the private place, exceed by more than 5 dB (A) the ambient noise standards specified for the area in which it is used.

Restrictions on the use of horns , sound emitting construction equipments and bursting of fire crackers:-

- No horn shall be used in silence zones or during night time in residential areas except during a public emergency.
- Sound emitting fire crackers shall not be burst in silence zone or during night time.
- Sound emitting construction equipments shall not be used or operated during night time in residential areas and silence zones.

Consequences of any violation in silence zone / area.-

In any place covered under the silence zone / area commits any of the following offence, he shall be liable for penalty under the provisions of the Act:-

- Whoever, plays any music or uses any sound amplifiers,
- Whoever, beats a drum or tom-tom or blows a horn either musical or pressure, or trumpet or beats or sounds any instrument, or
- Whoever exhibits any mimetic, musical or other performances of a nature to attract crowds.
- Whoever, bursts sound emitting fire crackers; or
- Whoever, uses a loud speaker or a public address system.

Noise limits for vehicles applicable at manufacturing stage:

S.No.	Type of vehicle	Noise Limits from 1st January, 2003, dB(A)	Date of implementation
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Two wheeler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement upto 80 cm³ • Displacement more than 80 cm³ but upto 175 cm³ • Displacement more than 175 cm³ 	75 77 80	Ist January, 2003
2.	Three wheeler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displacement upto 175 cm³ • Displacement more than 175 cm³ 	77 80	Ist January, 2003
3.	Passenger car	75	Ist January, 2003
4.	Passenger or commercial vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross vehicle weight upto 4 tonne • Gross vehicle weight more than 4 tonne but upto 12 tonne • Gross vehicle weight more than 12 tonne 	80 83 85	Ist July, 2003

Table 5.5.2 Noise limits for vehicles