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**NOISE SOURCE REGULATION  
IN STATE AND LOCAL  
NOISE ORDINANCES**

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IN STATE AND LOCAL NOISE ORDINANCES**

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**This Document was Prepared  
by  
The Office of Noise Abatement and Control**

**U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20460**

## INTRODUCTION

As more noise control regulations are enacted at the state and local levels, it has become more difficult to get an accurate overview of those regulations. What is needed is a planning and reference guide for public administrators and other officials engaged in developing and implementing noise control programs. To aid in satisfying that need, the Office of Noise Abatement and Control of the US Environmental Protection Agency has prepared this document.

Presented herein is a summary of noise source regulations encompassed in current state laws and local ordinances. Data has been extracted from only those laws and ordinances stipulating specific decibel levels. For information on the measurement procedures used, refer to the specific law or ordinance.

The state ordinances summarized in this report deal primarily with ground transportation systems. The local ordinances, on the other hand, deal with several different aspects of the noise problem, such as restricting noise from transportation systems and from construction equipment and limiting the noise transmitted across property lines. Because of the many variations among local regulations, no attempt has been made to list the specific noise level requirements contained in local zoning laws and building codes. Because new ordinances will continually be enacted, this publication will be updated at appropriate intervals.

**NOISE REGULATION AT THE STATE LEVEL**

**TRANSPORTATION NOISE**  
(dBA values at 50 feet unless noted otherwise)

Description	State	California			Colorado			Minnesota			Connecticut		
		Effective Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH	Effective Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH	Effective Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH	Effective Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH
Operation of vehicles at posted speeds:													
a. Motorcycle			82	86		82	86		82	86	Before 1/1/75	82	86
b. Vehicle with a GVW of 6000 lb or more (or combination)		Before 1/1/73	88	90	Before 1/1/73	88	90	Before 1/1/73	88	90	Before 1/1/75	88	90
c. Any other motor vehicle and any combination of motor vehicles towed by such vehicle		After 1/1/73	86	90	After 1/1/73	86	90	After 1/1/73	86	90	After 1/1/75	86	90
			76	82		82	86		76	82		76	82
Sale of new vehicles		Before 1970		92									
a. Motorcycle		After '69, Before '73		88	(includes motor-driven cycles in its provisions on motorcycles)			Before 1/1/73		82			
		After '72, Before '75		86				After 1/1/73		86			
		After '74, Before '78		84				Before 1/1/73		84			
		After '77, Before '81		78				After 1/1/73		86			
b. Vehicle with a GVW of 6000 lb or more		After '67, Before '73		88	After 1/1/71		88	After 1/1/68		88			
		After '72, Before '75		86	Before 1/1/73		86	Before 1/1/73		86			
		After '74, Before '78		83									
		After '77, Before '81		80									
c. Any other motor vehicle		After '67, Before '73		86	After 1/1/68		86	After 1/1/72		86			
		After '72, Before '75		84	Before 1/1/73		84	Before 1/1/73		84			
		After '74, Before '78		80									
		After '77, Before '81		75									
		After '81		70	After 1/1/73		84	After 1/1/73		84			
Snowmobiles					35 MPH or less	82					Before 1/1/75	82	
Operation					Over 35 MPH	86					After 1/1/75	73	
Sale of new snowmobiles					After 1/1/71	86							
					After 1/1/73	84							
Noise level limits for the operation of motor vehicles		Any vehicle manufactured on or after 1/1/72 before 1/1/73		92							Before 1/1/75	80	
		after 1/1/73 before 1/1/75		88							On or after 1/1/75	73	
		after 1/1/75		86									
Noise limits for level, low-speed roads (subject to special measuring conditions)													
a. Any motor vehicle with a GVW of 6000 lb or more (or combination)											82		
b. Any motorcycle											77		
c. Any other motor vehicle and any combination of vehicles towed by such other vehicle											74		
Establish Noise Impact Boundary around airports.													
New airports		CNEL 65 dBA											
Existing large airports		Before 1/1/76		80 dBA									
		After 1/1/76		75 dBA									
		After 1/1/81		70 dBA									
		After 1/1/81		65 dBA									
Existing small airports		Before 1/1/76		70 dBA									
		After 1/1/81		65 dBA									

\*Colorado and Illinois are the only states that have noise emission standards for stationary noise sources.

TRANSPIRATION NOISE  
(DBA values at 50 feet unless otherwise noted)

Description	Connecticut			Indiana			Pennsylvania			Idaho	N. Y.	Montana	Mass.
	Effec. Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH	Effec. Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH	Effec. Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH				
Operation of vehicles at posted speeds:													
a. Motorcycle	Before 1/1/75 After 1/1/75	81 80	80 84		85 86	86	9/1/71	90	92				
b. Vehicle with a GVW of 8000 lb or more (or combination)	Before 1/1/75 After 1/1/75	86 84	80 88	Before 1/1/73 After 1/1/73	83 86	80 80	9/1/71	90 (7000 lb or more)	92				
c. Any other motor vehicle and any combination of motor vehicles towed by such vehicle		78	82		76	82	11/1/71	82	86				
Noise limits for level, low-speed roads													
a. Motorcycle		77											
b. Vehicle with a GVW of 8000 lb or more		82											
c. Any motor vehicle and any combination of motor vehicles towed by such vehicle		74											
Snowmobile													
Operation	Before 1/1/75 After 1/1/75	63 73										73	
Sale of new snowmobiles										After 6/1/73 82 After 8/1/74 73	After 6/30/78 88 at 15 ft	After 1/1/71 73	
Sale of new vehicles													
a. Motorcycle							After 1/1/75	90					
b. Vehicle with a GVW of 1000 lb or more							After 1/1/75	90					
c. Any other motor vehicle							After 1/1/75	84					
Noise level limits for the operation of motor vehicles	Before 1/1/75 After 1/1/75	80 73								82 at 20 ft.	88		

**NOISE REGULATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

**TRANSPORTATION NOISE**  
(SPL values at 50 feet unless noted otherwise)

Description	City	Chicago			Boston	N.Y. City*		Minneapolis			Proposed Washington, D. C.		
		Effective Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH		35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH	Effective or less	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH	Effective Date	35 MPH or less	Over 35 MPH
Operation of vehicles at posted speeds	a. Motorcycle	Before 1/1/76	82	86		82 <sup>1</sup>	84						
		After 1/1/76	76	82		78	82		82	86			
		Before 1/1/73	88	90				Before 1/1/75	88	90	Before 1/1/73	88	90
b. Heavy vehicle	After 1/1/73	86	90		86	90	After 1/1/75	86	90	After 1/1/73	86	90	
	After 1/1/76	76	82		76 <sup>1</sup>	82		82	86	After 1/1/71	76	82	
c. Any other motor vehicle and any of motor vehicles towed by such vehicle	After 1/1/76	70	74		70	74				After 1/1/73	70	74	
	After 1/1/76	70	74										
<b>Sale of new vehicles</b>													
a. Motorcycle	Before 1/1/70	82									After 1/1/71	86	
	After 1/1/70	88			After 1/1/70	84				Before 1/1/72	90	After 1/1/73	86
	After 1/1/73	86			After 1/1/73	84				After 1/1/72	86	After 1/1/75	84
	After 1/1/75	84			After 1/1/75	84				Before 1/1/73	86	After 1/1/80	78
b. Heavy vehicle	After 1/1/73	86			After 1/1/73	84				After 1/1/72	86	After 1/1/71	88
	After 1/1/75	84			After 1/1/75	84				After 1/1/74	86	After 1/1/73	84
	After 1/1/80	78			After 1/1/80	78				After 1/1/75	84	After 1/1/78	84
	After 1/1/80	78			After 1/1/80	78				After 1/1/73	86	After 1/1/80	78
c. Passenger car, motor-driven cycle and any other motor vehicle	After 1/1/73	84			Before 1/1/73	86				After 1/1/72	86	Before 1/1/73	86
	After 1/1/75	80			After 1/1/73	84				After 1/1/73	86	After 1/1/73	84
	After 1/1/75	84			After 1/1/75	84				After 1/1/75	84	After 1/1/78	80
	After 1/1/80	78			After 1/1/80	78				After 1/1/75	84	After 1/1/80	78
Snowmobile	After 1/1/71	80											
	After 6/1/73	82											
	After 6/1/74	78											
Any other vehicle including dune buggy, all-terrain vehicle, go-cart, mini-bike	After 1/1/71	88					Refuse compacting vehicle manufactured or purchased after 12/31/76; 70 at 10 feet						
	After 1/1/73	82											
	After 1/1/75	78											
Motor-driven vehicles not subject to registration for road use	Before 1/1/73	80											
	After 1/1/73	82											
Powered boats	Before 1/1/75	85											
	After 1/1/75	76											

\*Provides for allowable levels at 25 feet as well as 50 feet.

<sup>1</sup> Before 1/1/76  
After 1/1/76



TRANSPORTATION NOISE (Cont.)

Ohio				General vehicle noise laws:		
Light Vehicles* - Before 1/1/77 (After 1/1/77)				Ann Arbor, Mich. - 90 @ 25 ft with vehicle traveling 20 mph		
Posted Speed Limit	Measurement Distance			Pocatello, Idaho } 92 @ 20 ft		
	20 ft	25 ft	50 ft	Idaho Falls, Idaho }		
25 mph or less	77 (69)	75 (67)	69 (61)	Cincinnati, Ohio - 95 @ 20 ft		
30	79 (71)	77 (69)	71 (63)	Omaha, Nebraska - 80 @ 25 ft (except heavy vehicles)		
35	81 (73)	79 (71)	73 (65)	- 88 @ 25 ft (heavy vehicles)		
40	83 (75)	81 (73)	75 (67)	Walla Walla, Washington } 95 @ 20 ft (Neutral - full throttle)		
45	85 (77)	83 (75)	77 (69)	Seattle, Washington }		
50	87 (79)	85 (77)	79 (71)	Pullman, Washington - At 25 ft at speed of 35 mph:		
55	89 (81)	87 (79)	81 (73)	Vehicle (6000 lb or more) 92		
60 mph or more	91 (83)	89 (81)	83 (75)	Motorcycle (engine displacement of 125 cc's or larger) 88		
				Any motor vehicle or combination 82		
Heavy Vehicles* - 1/1/72 to 12/31/73, After 1/1/74, After 1/1/77				Anchorage, Alaska - 88 @ 50 ft, speed < 25 mph		
Posted Speed Limit	Time Periods When Applicable	Measurement Distance			Boulder, Colorado - all vehicles limited to 88 from 7 AM to 6 PM, Mon-Sat	
		20 ft	25 ft	50 ft	Peoria, Illinois - Maximum Levels Distance (ft)	
35 mph or less	Day-Time	94, 92, 83	92, 90, 81	86, 84, 75	85	50
	Evening	92, 92, 75	90, 90, 73	84, 84, 67	80	45
	Night	81, 81, 73	79, 79, 71	73, 73, 65	87	40
	Holiday				88	35
	Sunday				89.5	30
More than 35 mph	All	94, 92, 83	92, 90, 81	86, 84, 75	91	25
Truck Routes	All	96, 96, --	94, 94, --	88, 88, --	93	20
					95.5	15

\*Vehicles include automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motorized bikes, motorized bicycles, scooters, go-carts, farm machinery, industrial machinery, highway graders, trailers, etc.

**MACHINE NOISE**  
(dBA levels at 50 feet unless noted otherwise)

City Description	Chicago	Boston	N. Y. City
Sale or lease of new construction and industrial equipment	After 1/1/72 94 After 1/1/73 88 After 1/1/75 86 After 1/1/80 80	After 1/1/72 94 After 1/1/73 88 After 1/1/80 80	
Air compressors (operate or permit to be operated) at 1 meter			12/31/72 90 6/30/74 80
Air compressors (sell, offer for sale, permit to be operated) at 1 meter			12/31/72 85 6/30/74 75 12/31/75 70
Agricultural tractors and equipment	After 1/1/72 88 After 1/1/75 86 After 1/1/80 80	After 1/1/72 88 After 1/1/75 86 After 1/1/80 80	
Powered commercial equipment intended for infrequent use in residential area (chain saws, pavement breakers, log chip-pers, etc.)	After 1/1/72 88 After 1/1/73 84 After 1/1/80 80	After 1/1/72 88 After 1/1/73 84 After 1/1/80 80	
Powered equipment intended for repetitive use in residential area (lawn mower, garden tools, etc.)	After 1/1/72 74 After 1/1/75 70 After 1/1/78 65	After 1/1/72 74 After 1/1/75 70 After 1/1/78 65	
Motor vehicle claxons at 25 ft 1974 models and thereafter			75
Emergency signal devices at 50 ft			90
Paving breaker at 1 meter			12/31/73 94 12/31/75 90

OTHER OBJECTIVE STANDARDS

City	Description								
Aspen, Colorado Boulder, Colorado	Specifies a limit of 80 dB(A) @ 25 ft from noise source or at least 25 ft from the property line on which the noise source is located.								
Medina, Washington  Indianapolis, Indiana  Salt Lake City, Utah	Any level greater than 95 dB(A) @ 20 feet from noise source.  Speakers and sound amplifying equipment < 115 dB @ 6 inches from speaker.  Drive-in restaurants: <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Octave Band</td> <td>dB (re 0.002 dynes/cm<sup>2</sup>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>600-1200</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1200-2400</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2400-4800</td> <td>37</td> </tr> </table>	Octave Band	dB (re 0.002 dynes/cm <sup>2</sup> )	600-1200	50	1200-2400	44	2400-4800	37
Octave Band	dB (re 0.002 dynes/cm <sup>2</sup> )								
600-1200	50								
1200-2400	44								
2400-4800	37								
Palo Alto, California	Includes 83 dBA limit from individual construction equipment at 25 ft; 86 dBA limit at any point outside of the property plane of a construction project.								
San Francisco, California	Includes limits on waste disposal services, garbage collection, etc., 80 dBA at 50 ft on and after 6 months after effective date reduced to 75 dBA on and after 66 months after effective date. Includes limits on motor vehicles for off-highway use.								
Park Ridge, Illinois	Establishes aircraft runway extensions defined as areas 1200 feet wide and five miles long which adjoin existing runways at O'Hare International Airport, the center line of the runway continuing as the center line of the extension. Noise above 95 dBC measured within this area is prohibited.								
Santa Barbara, California	Restricts all nonflight activities of aircraft to the community noise equivalent level (CNEL) of 80 dBA.								
Portland, Oregon	Helistops are prohibited in residential and commercial zones if the noise from these facilities at landing or takeoff exceeds 90 dB at the boundary of adjacent property in residential areas, or at the nearest occupied premises in commercial zones.								

COMMUNITIES APPLYING DECIBEL LIMITS TO ZONING LAWS,  
BUILDING CODES, AND PROPERTY LINES

Juneau, Alaska	Peoria, Illinois
Ketchikan, Alaska	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Tucson, Arizona	Baltimore, Maryland
Anaheim, California	Boston, Massachusetts
Beverly Hills, California	Springfield, Massachusetts
Fountain Valley, California	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Hemet, California	Rochester, Minnesota
Inglewood, California	Las Vegas, Nevada
Los Angeles, California	Fair Lawn, New Jersey
Palo Alto, California	Albuquerque, New Mexico
San Francisco, California	Binghamton, New York
Torrance, California	Columbus, Ohio
Colorado Springs, Colorado	Dayton, Ohio
Denver, Colorado	Grants Pass, Oregon
New Haven, Connecticut	Silverton, Oregon
District of Columbia	Warwick, Rhode Island
Jacksonville, Florida	Amarillo, Texas
Miami, Florida	Dallas, Texas
College Park, Georgia	Bellevue, Washington
Chicago, Illinois	Kirkland, Washington