



*Docket # OPMO 0184*  
*ITEM # 32*  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
10801 Rockville Pike • Rockville, Maryland 20852 • (301) 897-5700 (Voice or TTY)

July 8, 1985

*n-96-01*  
*II-A-995*

Charles Elkins  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation (AR-443)  
Docket No. OPMO-0184  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Motor Carriers Engaged in  
Interstate Commerce; Noise  
Standards and Transportation  
Equipment; Noise Emission  
Controls; Medium and Heavy  
Trucks  
40 CFR Parts 202 and 205

Dear Mr. Elkins:

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed deferment of the effective date of the 80 decibel (dB) noise standard for newly manufactured medium and heavy trucks from January 1, 1986 to January 1, 1988. This proposed rule has already been deferred on two occasions and was originally scheduled to go into effect in 1982. ASHA is a professional and scientific organization composed of over 45,000 audiologists and speech-language pathologists who are specialists in human communication including the prevention, identification, and assessment of hearing impairment. Audiologists have documented the continuing decline in the hearing in Americans and at least part of this decline may be due to noise in our everyday environment; noise like that created by medium and heavy trucks.

ASHA is opposed to further delay of the implementation of the 80 dB noise standard. Hearing is a vital sense and the gradual destruction of our high frequency hearing may be at risk. At the very least, the annoyance of truck noise can be curtailed. Three years have elapsed since the original effective date and no further time should pass. ASHA recommends that the EPA establish the 80 dB noise standard as a final rule.

Sincerely yours,

Steven C. White, Ph.D.  
Director  
Reimbursement Policy Division

*rec'd. 8/5/85*

*AR 6090*