

Draft Noise Limit Guidelines

Introduction

These Guidelines are mainly for use by council officers and noise consultants who want to measure the noise output of various vehicles and other equipment and compare these against the noise limits in Table I that have been endorsed by the Director, EPA. The Guidelines are not directly enforceable; however they may assist in demonstrating compliance with:

- The 'environmental nuisance' provisions in section 53 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*;
- The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016*; and
- The general common law requirement for owners and users of noise-producing vehicles and equipment to respect the health, amenity and values of other members of society.

The Guidelines may also be indirectly enforced through issuing an 'approved instrument' (as defined in the *Noise Regulations 2016*) that refers to all or part of the Guidelines.

Alternative noise limits or measurement parameters that can achieve an equivalent or better level of environmental protection may also be used where appropriate. However, such alternative approaches should be fully justified and documented if legislative compliance is being assessed. Further details on measurement procedures are given in the *Noise Measurement Procedures Manual*.

Note that in Table I, the 'Mobile Machinery' category includes:

- Tractors, graders, rollers, scrapers, dump trucks and other wheel-driven mobile machinery other than front-end loaders, forklift trucks and similar mobile machinery;
- Front-end loaders, mobile machinery based on front-end loader chassis and backhoes other than crawler mobile machinery ;
- Mobile cranes and excavators;
- Crawler mobile machinery other than cranes and excavators;
- Agricultural machinery other than general-purpose tractors; and
- Forklift trucks and other industrial vehicles.

The 'Portable Apparatus' category in Table I includes:

- Power tools; and
- Gas or air compressors, AC or DC generators, pumps, cement mixers and their drives.

Table I- Noise Limits and other Measurement Parameters

Item	GVM (tonnes)	NEP (kW)	Noise Limit (dB(A))	Measurement Distance (m)	Measurement Circumstances
			Measured from exhaust outlet:		Vehicle being operated, but stationary
Motor Bikes and Trikes			94	0.5	
Cars			90	0.5	
Other Motor Vehicles (positive ignition)	≤3.5		89	1.0	
	>3.5		95	1.0	
Other Motor Vehicles (compression ignition)	<3.5		99	1.0	
	3.5 to 12		101	1.0	
	>12		103	1.0	
			Measured from the piece of machinery or apparatus:		Item being operated
Mobile Machinery		<110	83	7.5	
		110 to 220	85	7.5	
		221 to 450	88	7.5	
		>450	92	7.5	
Portable Apparatus ≤50m from residence, shop or office			74	7.5	
Portable Apparatus >50m from residence, shop or office			92	7.5	
Power Lawnmowers		<5	74	7.5	
		≥5	77	7.5	
Chainsaw (petrol)			95	7.5	
Chainsaw (electric)			77	7.5	
Vessels			74	25	Being operated on water
Outboard Motors			74	25	
Vessel at an Organized Racing Event			95	30	
Other Vehicle at an Organized Racing Event			95	25	Being operated on land
Air-cushioned Vehicles			84	25	Being operated on land or water

Notes:

1. **GVM** means Gross Vehicle Mass, or maximum loaded mass of the vehicle
2. **NEP** means Net Engine Power, determined in accordance with Australian Design Rule 28/01 under the Commonwealth *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*.
3. **dB(A)** means decibel expressed as A-weighted sound pressure level, which is used as an approximation to the subjective human perception of loudness at low sound pressure levels.