

**WAC 173-60-040****Maximum permissible environmental noise levels.**

(1) No person shall cause or permit noise to intrude into the property of another person which noise exceeds the maximum permissible noise levels set forth below in this section.

(2)(a) The noise limitations established are as set forth in the following table after any applicable adjustments provided for herein are applied.

EDNA OF NOISE SOURCE	EDNA OF RECEIVING PROPERTY		
	Class A	Class B	Class C
CLASS A	55 dBA	57 dBA	60 dBA
CLASS B	57	60	65
CLASS C	60	65	70

(b) Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the noise limitations of the foregoing table shall be reduced by 10 dBA for receiving property within Class A EDNAs.

(c) At any hour of the day or night the applicable noise limitations in (a) and (b) above may be exceeded for any receiving property by no more than:

- (i) 5 dBA for a total of 15 minutes in any one-hour period; or
- (ii) 10 dBA for a total of 5 minutes in any one-hour period; or
- (iii) 15 dBA for a total of 1.5 minutes in any one-hour period.

[Order 74-32, § 173-60-040, filed 4/22/75, effective 9/1/75.]

# WAC 173-60-090

## Enforcement policy.

Noise measurement for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of WAC **173-060-040** shall be measured in dBA with a sound level meter with the point of measurement being at any point within the receiving property. Such enforcement shall be undertaken only upon receipt of a complaint made by a person who resides, owns property, or is employed in the area affected by the noise complained of, EXCEPT for parks, recreational areas, and wildlife sanctuaries. For enforcement purposes pursuant to RCW **70.107.050**, each day, defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 12:01 a.m., in which violation of the noise control regulations (chapter **173-60** WAC) occurs, shall constitute a separate violation.

[Order DE 76-5, § 173-60-090, filed 2/5/76; Order 74-32, § 173-60-090, filed 4/22/75, effective 9/1/75.]

## RCW 70.107.030

### Powers and duties of department.

The department is empowered as follows:

(1) The department, after consultation with state agencies expressing an interest therein, shall adopt, by rule, maximum noise levels permissible in identified environments in order to protect against adverse affects of noise on the health, safety and welfare of the people, the value of property, and the quality of environment: PROVIDED, That in so doing the department shall take also into account the economic and practical benefits to be derived from the use of various products in each such environment, whether the source of the noise or the use of such products in each environment is permanent or temporary in nature, and the state of technology relative to the control of noise generated by all such sources of the noise or the products.

(2) At any time after the adoption of maximum noise levels under subsection (1) of this section the department shall, in consultation with state agencies and local governments expressing an interest therein, adopt rules, consistent with the Federal Noise Control Act of 1972 (86 Stat. 1234; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 4901-4918 and 49 U.S.C. Sec. 1431), for noise abatement and control in the state designed to achieve compliance with the noise level adopted in subsection (1) of this section, including reasonable implementation schedules where appropriate, to insure that the maximum noise levels are not exceeded and that application of the best practicable noise control technology and practice is provided. These rules may include, but shall not be limited to:

(a) Performance standards setting allowable noise limits for the operation of products which produce noise;

(b) Use standards regulating, as to time and place, the operation of individual products which produce noise above specified levels considering frequency spectrum and duration: PROVIDED, The rules shall provide for temporarily exceeding those standards for stated purposes; and

(c) Public information requirements dealing with disclosure of levels and characteristics of noise produced by products.

(3) The department may, as desirable in the performance of its duties under this chapter, conduct surveys, studies and public education programs, and enter into contracts.

(4) The department is authorized to apply for and accept moneys from the federal government and other sources to assist in the implementation of this chapter.

(5) The legislature recognizes that the operation of motor vehicles on public highways as defined in RCW 46.09.310 contributes significantly to environmental noise levels and directs the department, in exercising the rule-making authority under the provisions of this section, to give first priority to the adoption of motor vehicle noise performance standards.

(6) Noise levels and rules adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter shall not be effective prior to March 31, 1975.

[ 2011 c 171 § 107; 1974 ex.s. c 183 § 3.]

### NOTES:

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

## WAC 173-60-050

### Exemptions.

(1) The following shall be exempt from the provisions of WAC 173-60-040 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.:

(a) Sounds originating from residential property relating to temporary projects for the maintenance or repair of homes, grounds and appurtenances.

(b) Sounds created by the discharge of firearms on authorized shooting ranges.

(c) Sounds created by blasting.

(d) Sounds created by aircraft engine testing and maintenance not related to flight operations: Provided, That aircraft testing and maintenance shall be conducted at remote sites whenever possible.

(e) Sounds created by the installation or repair of essential utility services.

(2) The following shall be exempt from the provisions of WAC 173-60-040 (2)(b):

(a) Noise from electrical substations and existing stationary equipment used in the conveyance of water, waste water, and natural gas by a utility.

(b) Noise from existing industrial installations which exceed the standards contained in these regulations and which, over the previous three years, have consistently operated in excess of 15 hours per day as a consequence of process necessity and/or demonstrated routine normal operation. Changes in working hours, which would affect exemptions under this regulation, require approval of the department.

(3) The following shall be exempt from the provisions of WAC 173-60-040, except insofar as such provisions relate to the reception of noise within Class A EDNAs between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

(a) Sounds originating from temporary construction sites as a result of construction activity.

(b) Sounds originating from forest harvesting and silvicultural activity.

(4) The following shall be exempt from all provisions of WAC 173-60-040:

(a) Sounds created by motor vehicles when regulated by chapter 173-62 WAC.

(b) Sounds originating from aircraft in flight and sounds that originate at airports which are directly related to flight operations.

(c) Sounds created by surface carriers engaged in interstate commerce by railroad.

(d) Sounds created by warning devices not operating continuously for more than five minutes, or bells, chimes, and carillons.

(e) Sounds created by safety and protective devices where noise suppression would defeat the intent of the device or is not economically feasible.

(f) Sounds created by emergency equipment and work necessary in the interests of law enforcement or for health safety or welfare of the community.

(g) Sounds originating from motor vehicle racing events at existing authorized facilities.

(h) Sounds originating from officially sanctioned parades and other public events.

(i) Sounds emitted from petroleum refinery boilers during startup of said boilers: Provided, That the startup operation is performed during daytime hours whenever possible.

(j) Sounds created by the discharge of firearms in the course of hunting.

(k) Sounds caused by natural phenomena and unamplified human voices.

(l) Sounds created by motor vehicles, licensed or unlicensed, when operated off public highways EXCEPT when such sounds are received in Class A EDNAs.

(m) Sounds originating from existing natural gas transmission and distribution facilities. However, in circumstances where such sounds impact EDNA Class A environments and complaints are received, the director or his designee may take action to abate by application of

EDNA Class C source limits to the facility under the requirements of WAC 173-60-050(5).

(6) Nothing in these exemptions is intended to preclude the department from requiring installation of the best available noise abatement technology consistent with economic feasibility. The establishment of any such requirement shall be subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter **34.04** RCW.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter **70.107** RCW. WSR 94-12-001 (Order 92-41), § 173-60-050, filed 5/18/94, effective 6/18/94; WSR 83-15-046 (Order DE 82-42), § 173-60-050, filed 7/19/83; Order DE 77-1, § 173-60-050, filed 6/2/77; Order 75-18, § 173-60-050, filed 8/1/75; Order 74-32, § 173-60-050, filed 4/22/75, effective 9/1/75.]