



# **SOUND INFORMATION**

## **Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Airport Noise Reduction Programs**

The Port of Seattle provides one of the most comprehensive noise management programs in the nation with Sea-Tac's noise abatement and mitigation measures. Sea-Tac's noise programs are divided into **Noise Abatement** and **Noise Remedy**. Noise abatement programs relate directly to noise reduction at the source — models of aircraft and engine types at Sea-Tac, flight procedures, ground noise restrictions, etc.. Noise remedy programs are those that mitigate the effects of noise in the impacted communities. These type of programs include sound insulation of homes, sales assistance and the home acquisition and relocation program.

### **NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAMS**

#### **Noise Budget**

This program guarantees that Sea-Tac will move steadily and predictably toward an all Stage 3 (the quietest) jet fleet, reducing noise each year over the next 10 years. The "budget" allocates the maximum amount of noise that airlines are allowed to make each year at Sea-Tac and this allocation is reduced annually. During the first three years of the program Sea-Tac's Stage 3 fleet rose to 81% from 50%. The national Stage 3 fleet is at 59% for 1993/94.

#### **Nighttime Limitations**

This program, which went into effect Oct. 1, 1990, phases out Stage 2 (the noisiest) jet aircraft flights during the nighttime hours. Each year the nighttime hours expand until they restrict operation of these jets between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on October 1, 1995.

#### **Ground Noise Control**

**Powerbacks.** Airlines at Sea-Tac are not allowed to use engine power to back away from gates. With the use of tugs, all aircraft are now pushed away from gates to reduce noise.

**Run-ups.** Regulations have been established for when and where jet engine maintenance run-ups may occur. During the daytime, run-ups are allowed but only at designated airport locations. Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., engine run-ups are allowed only under special circumstances or if related to a departure between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

#### **Noise Abatement Procedures**

Routing aircraft to reduce noise is always difficult in densely populated regions. Of the many flight patterns in the greater Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area, however, certain routing procedures have been designed to help reduce aircraft noise for the community at large by flying aircraft over as few homes as possible. These procedures include:

**The initial "straight-out" departure corridors, both north and south  
The Duwamish/Elliott Bay Corridor for arriving and departing aircraft  
Puget Sound nighttime procedures**

## Flight Track Monitoring

The noise abatement office uses information from the FAA's air traffic control radar system to monitor aircraft performance while operating within established noise abatement corridors. Also, community residents can request flight investigations to identify reasons for noisy events and determine if procedures are being met by the air traffic controllers and airline pilots. The Port of Seattle forwards the findings to the FAA, airlines, pilots, and the Sea-Tac Noise Advisory Committee and seeks the assistance of the airlines and FAA in achieving good performance.

## Noise Monitoring

The Port of Seattle has an 11-station permanent noise monitoring system that records noise exposure levels around the airport. These monitors provide data that is used in updating the Sea-Tac noise contours (or noise exposure patterns), which are the basis of the noise remedy programs. Also, this data is used to track the overall reductions in airport noise and to analyze significant noise events.

**Noise Information/Complaint Line**                      **call: 433-5393 or toll free: 1-800-826-1147**

The noise information/complaint line operates 24 hours a day and is an excellent way for the public to ask for information or to let the Port of Seattle know what is most troublesome about aircraft noise over their neighborhoods (i.e. nighttime noise, specific flight, etc.) Calls are either recorded or taken in person and records of citizen concerns are distributed to Port, FAA officials, airlines and the general public.

## NOISE REMEDY PROGRAMS

### Acquisition and Relocation

The acquisition and relocation program allows the purchase of the most severely impacted homes for their fair market value. The occupants also are assisted in relocating. More than 1,320 homes have been acquired and 3,900 residents relocated.

### Sound Insulation and Sales Assistance

The goal of the insulation program is to significantly reduce noise within homes around the airport, thus reducing the noise impacts on airport area residents and supporting the residential nature of the neighborhoods. There are no out-of-pocket costs to qualified homeowners.

For details on the noise remedy programs, call **431-5913** or stop by at 1410 South 200th. Office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weekdays.

### Public Information Materials

The Port publishes a wide variety of informational materials to help people understand the aircraft noise issue. Call the noise information line to receive any materials.

A **quarterly report** on airport activities including Sea-Tac's fleet mix, traffic flow statistics, number of operations, flight track maps and results of noise reduction programs.

The monthly ***Sea-Tac Forum*** newsletter, which contains information about the airports planning and noise programs and projects.

**Fact sheets** with detailed information on noise abatement procedures and other noise programs.