Chapter 173-62 WAC

MOTOR VEHICLE NOISE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

WAC

173-62-010  Authority and purpose.
173-62-030  Standards.
173-62-050  Implementation schedules.
173-62-070  Effective date.

WAC 173-62-010  Authority and purpose. (1) Under RCW 70.107.030(5) of the Noise Control Act of 1974 (chapter 183, Laws of 1974), the legislature directed the department of ecology, in exercising rule-making authority to give first priority to the adoption of motor vehicle noise performance standards. The purpose of this chapter is to carry out that legislative directive through the adoption of noise emission standards for new motor vehicles and noise emission standards for the operation of motor vehicles on public highways.

(2) Local needs. The standards established in this chapter provide several methods of evaluating motor vehicle noise levels. Nothing in these rules is meant to require enforcement agencies or local governments to adopt or use every standard in this chapter to determine a violation. Specific local needs shall dictate the standard(s) which may be adopted or used.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.107 RCW. 80-14-041 (Order DE 80-29), § 173-62-010, filed 9/30/80; Order DE 74-33, § 173-62-010, filed 1/30/75, effective 7/1/75.]

WAC 173-62-020  Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(1) "dBA" means the sound level in decibels measured using the "A" weighting network on a sound level meter as specified in the American National Standard Specification for Sound Level Meters S1.4-1971. A decibel is a unit of sound, based on a logarithmic scale, of the ratio of the magnitude of a particular sound pressure to a standard reference pressure of 20 micropascals;

(2) "Department" means the department of ecology;

(3) "Director" means director of the department of ecology;

(4) "Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle;

(5) "In-use" motor vehicle is any motor vehicle which is used on a public highway, except farm vehicles as defined under RCW 46.04.181;

(6) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle which is self-propelled, used primarily for transporting persons or property upon public highways and required to be licensed under RCW 46.16.010 (aircraft, water craft and vehicles used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks are not motor vehicles as that term is used herein);

(7) "Motorcycle" means any motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, except farm tractors;

(8) "Muffler" means a device consisting of a series of chambers or other mechanical designs for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine and effective in reducing noise to comply with the standards of this chapter;

(9) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle manufactured after December 31, 1975, whose equitable or legal title has never been transferred to a person who, in good faith, purchases the new motor vehicle for purposes other than resale;

(10) "Off-highway vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle not used primarily for transporting persons or property upon public highways nor required to be licensed under RCW 46.16.010;

(11) "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, governmental body, state agency or other entity whatsoever;

(12) "Public highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained by the department of highways or any county or city when any part thereof is generally open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel as a matter of right;

(13) "Sound level" means a weighted sound pressure level measured by use of a sound level meter using the "A" weighting network and reported as dBA.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.107 RCW. 80-14-041 (Order DE 80-29), § 173-62-020, filed 9/30/80; Order DE 74-33, § 173-62-020, filed 8/11/75; Order DE 74-33, § 173-62-020, filed 1/30/75, effective 7/1/75.]

WAC 173-62-030  Standards. (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle or any combination of such vehicles upon any public highway under any conditions of grade, load, acceleration or deceleration in such a manner as to exceed the maximum permissible sound levels for the category of vehicle in Table I, as measured at a distance of 50 feet (15.2 meters) from the center of the lane of travel within the speed limits specified, under procedures established by the state commission on equipment in chapter 204-56 WAC, "procedures for measuring motor vehicle sound levels."

Table I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Category (type)</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Maximum Sound Level, dBA Speed Zones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45 mph (72 kph) or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycles</td>
<td>July 1, 1980</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Ch. 173-62 WAC—p. 1]
### Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Category (type)</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>45 mph or less (72 kph)</th>
<th>Over 45 mph (72 kph)</th>
<th>Stationary Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automobiles, light trucks and all other motor vehicles</td>
<td>July 1, 1980</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 pounds (4536 kg) GVWR or less</td>
<td>July 1, 1980</td>
<td>35 mph (56 kph)</td>
<td>35 mph (56 kph)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All motor vehicles over 10,000 pounds (4536 kg) GVWR</td>
<td>June 1, 1977</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986 and after</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Every motor vehicle operated upon the public highways shall at all times be equipped with an exhaust system and a muffler in good working order and constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise.

(3) No person shall operate a motor vehicle in such a manner as to cause or allow to be emitted squealing, screeching or other such noise from the tires in contact with the ground because of rapid acceleration or excessive speed around corners or other such reason, except that noise resulting from emergency braking to avoid imminent danger shall be exempt from this provision.

(4) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public highway if the vehicle exhaust system exceeds the maximum permissible sound levels of Table II for the category and year of vehicle, as measured at a distance of twenty inches (0.5 meter) from the exhaust outlet under procedures established by the state commission on equipment in chapter 204-56 WAC, “procedures for measuring motor vehicle sound levels.”

(5) No person shall sell or offer for sale a NEW MOTOR VEHICLE except an off-highway vehicle, which produces a maximum noise exceeding the noise levels in Table III at a distance of 50 feet (15.2 meters) under acceleration test procedures established by the state commission on equipment in chapter 204-56 WAC, “procedures for measuring motor vehicle sound levels.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Category (type)</th>
<th>Date of Manufacture</th>
<th>Maximum Sound Level, dBA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any motor vehicle over 10,000 pounds (4536 kg) GVWR or less</td>
<td>after January 1, 1978</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All buses over</td>
<td>after January 1, 1980</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 pounds (4536 kg) GVWR</td>
<td>after January 1, 1986</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycles</td>
<td>after January 1, 1976</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 pounds (4536 kg) GVWR</td>
<td>after January 1, 1986</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.107 RCW. 80-14-041 (Order DE 80-29), § 173-62-030, filed 9/30/80; Order DE 77-2, § 173-62-030, filed 6/1/77; Order DE 75-17, § 173-62-030, filed 8/11/75; Order DE 74-33, § 173-62-030, filed 1/30/75, effective 7/1/75.]
by such authorities and in such manner as violations of chapter 46.37 RCW.

(3) Law enforcement personnel selected to measure vehicle sound levels shall have received training in the techniques of sound measurement and the operation of sound measuring instruments.

(4) Any enforcement officer who by use of the initial inspection procedures of chapter 204-56 WAC suspects that a motor vehicle may be in violation of the standards of this chapter may require the operator to have the vehicle presented for sound level measurement. Measurements of a motor vehicle may be performed at off-road sites to determine compliance with the in-use standards.

(5) Any operator who fails to comply with the directive to present the vehicle to a sound level measurement test shall be in violation of this chapter.

(6) Any seller, importer, or manufacturer who sells or offers for sale a motor vehicle which violates the standards in WAC 173-62-030 shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars as established in RCW 70.107.050. Every motor vehicle sold or offered for sale shall constitute a separate violation.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.107 RCW. 80-14-041 (Order DE 80-29), § 173-62-060, filed 9/30/80; Order DE 74-33, § 173-62-060, filed 1/30/75, effective 7/1/75.]

**WAC 173-62-070 Effective date.** This chapter shall become effective July 1, 1975.

[Order DE 74-33, § 173-62-070, filed 1/30/75, effective 7/1/75.]