

Noise

Noise is commonly referred to as unwanted sound. Noise can affect people both physically and psychologically. In Hillsborough County, when levels of sound rise above certain measurable levels, that sound is considered noise pollution. A certain amount of noise is part of the normal human environment. Traffic noise, airport noise, industrial and residential noise form part of the background of our lives. However, excessive noise can have an adverse effect upon people.

Noise Levels

Jet takeoff at 100 feet = 120 dB



Amplified rock band at 100 feet = 110 dB

Lawnmower at operator = 90 dB



Heavy traffic at 50 feet = 80 dB

Air Conditioning unit at 20 feet = 60 dB

Normal conversation at 6 feet = 55 dB

Whispering = 30 dB



Intent

The Environmental Protection Commission's Noise Rule, Chapter 1-10, is intended to regulate noise pollution from stationary sources throughout the county, and reduce the impact of industrial and commercial, or other noise sources on residential neighborhoods.

How EPC Regulates Noise in Hillsborough County

EPC's noise standards are enforced according to the type of land receiving the noise, and are measured as an Leq for a 10 minute period of time. The decibel limits indicated under each category below are the limits for that receiving property during the time period indicated:

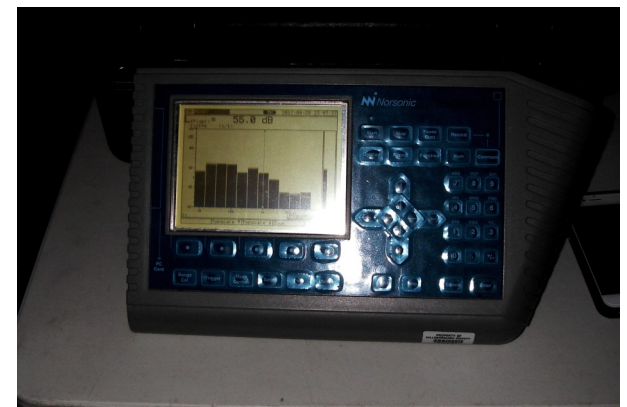
Receiving Land Use	Time	Sound Level Limit, dBA
Residential	7 a.m.-10 p.m.	60
	10 p.m.-7 a.m.	55
Commercial	At all Times	65
Industrial	At all Times	70

Air Conditioning/Air Handling Equipment, Pumps and Compressors

The following standards apply to the equipment at any time of the day or night: 55 decibels on the A-Scale as an Leq for a 10-minute period of time, measured at a distance of at least 40 feet across a residential real property line.

EPC's Rule also includes a standard for low frequency noise for any source of sound which impacts residential property.

Octave Band	Time	Sound Level
63 Hz	7 a.m.-11 p.m.	70
63 Hz	11 p.m.-7 a.m.	65
125 Hz	7 a.m.-11 p.m.	64
125 Hz	11 p.m.-7 a.m.	59
250 Hz	7 a.m.-11 p.m.	57
250 Hz	11 p.m.-7 a.m.	53



Other Agencies that Address Noise

Aviation Related Noise: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the authority to enforce and regulate airports and aircraft. Call FAA toll-free 24 hours a day at 1-866-TELL-FAA (1-866-835-5322).

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority is the local agency for flight paths and airport improvement within Hillsborough County, call 813-870-8700.

For questions regarding noise from military planes, call MacDill AFB at 813-828-2215.

Vehicle/Traffic Noise: On-road traffic noise is specifically exempt from EPC's jurisdiction. Citizen concerns regarding expressways and toll roads are handled by the Expressway Authority at 813-272-6740.

The Florida Department of Transportation Responds to concerns regarding state roads. They may be contacted at 813-975-6000.

Noise issues regarding Hillsborough County roads are addressed by the Public Works Department at 813-635-5400.

Disturbance of the Peace including car stereos: Noise which can be categorized as disturbance of the peace may be reported to Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office at 813-247-8200, the Tampa Police Department at 813-276-3200, the Temple Terrace Police Department at 813-989-7110 or the Plant City Police Department at 813-757-9200.

Railroad Noise: The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulates noise related to railroad operations. They can be reached at 1-800-724-5993.

Exemptions

Construction: Construction noise is exempt occurring between the hours of 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. At all other times, compliance with established noise standards is required.

Other Exemptions: Unamplified animal noise, activities related to residential or agricultural communities, refuse collection, commercial operation of lawn equipment between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., places of religious worship, shooting ranges, and federal holidays.

For Additional Information or to forward a complaint please contact the EPC at 813-627-2600 or visit the website at www.epchc.org.



EPC NOISE STANDARDS FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

AN INFORMATION GUIDE Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County Air Management Division