

Regulation EN-12.0: Noise Control

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Table of Contents

12.1 General.....	3
12.2 Environmental Noise Criteria	3
12.3 Control.....	3
12.4 Performance Testing.....	4
12.5 Exceedance Reporting.....	4
12.6 References.....	4

12.1 General

Noise refers to all sounds, vibrations, or frequencies which cause noise or which are harmful to public health.

To protect the general public from physiological impairment resulting from excessive levels of noise, the Authority has established noise control criteria. These criteria include environmental noise exposure limits to protect the general public from excessive noise levels and to provide guidance for land use planning. These shall only be applicable to noise levels measured at the property fence line.

12.2 Environmental Noise Criteria

At the industrial property fence line during daytime, noise level (A weighted) should not exceed 70 dBA (see following Table 6 for noise criteria for various areas). This does not relate to roadside area affected by traffic noise, the impact of which would have to be considered otherwise.

12.3 Control

The industrial premises or any mechanical equipment shall ensure that the emission of noise does not exceed a reasonable level.

A reasonable noise level shall be determined by the Authority based on the characteristics of the noise, its duration, timing frequency, impulsive character, and level and based on the location or the receiving site. Noise will generally be considered to be reasonable if it meets the criteria in Table for Allowable Limits for Noise Level.

An authorized officer of the Authority may investigate a complaint of excessive noise and may issue a direction either verbal or written to reduce noise to a reasonable level in accordance with item above.

Where the facility has received a direction to reduce the noise to a specified level or to silence any equipment or to cease any activity, that facility must follow the direction or be subject to Free Zone Rules.

12.4 Performance Testing

The facilities, on a case-by-case basis, would be required to conduct performance testing for noise criteria. This testing, at the fence line would be required to ensure compliance with relevant requirements.

12.5 Exceedance Reporting

Any parameter that exceeds the threshold values of the standards must be recorded.

A 20% exceedance must be immediately reported to EHS with the following details:

- Date and level of exceedance;
- Reason/s of having the exceedance;
- Action/s taken to prevent, control or mitigate the exceedance; and
- Any action/s that has been taken or will be taken to prevent the re-occurrence of the exceedance.

Table 12.1 – Allowable Limits for Noise Level

	Day (7 am – 8 pm)	Night (8 pm – 7 am)
Residential Areas with Light Traffic	40 – 50	30 – 40
Residential Areas in Downtown	45 – 55	35 – 45
Residential Areas which include some Workshops and Commercial Business or Residential Areas near the Highways	50 – 60	40 – 50
Commercial Areas and Downtown	55 – 65	45 – 55
Industrial Areas Fence Line (Heavy Industry)	60 – 70	50 – 60

* *dBA means decibels adjusted. dBA is used for determining the sound exposure to humans*

12.6 References

- Federal Environment Agency Regulation on Air Pollution 2006
- Dubai Municipality Technical Guidelines