

Chapter 23

NOISE LIMITATIONS

Chapter Contents

- 23.0 Purpose
- 23.1 Applicability
- 23.2 Single Noise Events
- 23.3 Community Noise Levels
- 23.4 Measurement Of Noise Levels
- 23.5 Monitoring
- 23.6 Performance Standards
- 23.7 Compliance
- 23.8 Exemptions To Noise Limitations

23.0 Purpose: The purpose of this chapter is to implement the Goals and Policies, Land Use Element, Noise Subelement, and to attain and maintain the TRPA noise thresholds.

23.1 Applicability: The provisions of this chapter apply to single noise events from aircraft, marine crafts, motor vehicles, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, and over-snow vehicles. The provisions also apply to community noise levels in the Tahoe Region.

23.2 Single Noise Events: TRPA shall use the maximum level recorded on a noise meter, L-MAX, for measuring single noise events. The noise levels set forth in subsection 23.2.A are the maximum permissible noise levels for the types of operations listed, unless specifically exempted under section 23.8.

23.2.A Maximum Allowable Noise Levels (dBA): The maximum allowable noise levels (dBA) are:

(1) Aircraft: For transport category aircraft (more than 65 seats or weighing more than 60,000 pounds): the arrival standard at Lake Tahoe Airport is 86 dBA (Lmax). For commuter aircraft (65 seats or less or weighing 60,000 pounds or less) and general aviation: the arrival standard at Lake Tahoe Airport is 84 dba (Lmax). For all other aircraft operations the single event noise standard is 80 dBA. Measurement of the standard shall be at 6500 meters from start to takeoff roll and at 2000 meters from runway threshold approach. The nighttime (8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.) single event noise standard is 77.1 dBA (Lmax) for all aircraft operations.

(2) Helicopter: [Reserved.]

- (3) Watercraft:[§] Watercraft, must meet each of the following separate threshold measurement standards:
- a. Certification by the manufacturer or by TRPA approved field test agent that the watercraft passes the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) test J34 or SAE-J34, Pass by Test, 82.0 dBA to be measured at 50 feet with the engine at 3,000 RPM; and
 - b. Field test measurements that the watercraft passes the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) test J1970 or SAE-J1970, Shoreline Test, 75 dBA; and
 - c. Field test measurements that the watercraft passes the Society of Automotive Engineers test J2005, Stationary Test, 88 dBA if watercraft manufactured on or after January 1, 1993 and 90 dBA if watercraft manufactured before January 1, 1993.

TRPA may permit exceedances from these standards for regatta or watercraft race events.

- (4) Motor Vehicles: For motor vehicles less than or equal to 6,000 GVW, 76.0 dBA at 50 feet when traveling less than or equal to 35 MPH. For motor vehicles greater than 6,000 GVW, 82.0 dBA at 50 feet when traveling greater than 35 MPH.
- (5) Motorcycles: For motorcycles traveling less than or equal to 35 MPH, 77.0 dBA when measured at 50 feet. For motorcycles traveling greater than 35 MPH, 86.0 dBA when measured at 50 feet.
- (6) Off-Road Vehicles: For off-road vehicles traveling less than or equal to 35 MPH, 72.0 dBA when measured at 50 feet. For off-road vehicles traveling greater than 35 MPH, 86.0 dBA when measured at 50 feet.
- (7) Over-Snow Vehicles: For over-snow vehicles, 82.0 dBA when measured at 50 feet.

23.3 Community Noise Levels: TRPA shall use community noise equivalent levels, (CNELs), to measure community noise levels. The plan area statements shall set forth CNELs which shall not be exceeded by any one activity or combination of activities. (See subsection 13.5.K.) In addition, community noise levels shall not exceed levels existing on August 26, 1982, where such levels are known. The CNELs set forth in the plan area statements are based on the land use classification, the presence of transportation corridors, and the applicable threshold. TRPA maps, in accordance with Chapter 12, shall identify the boundaries of transportation corridors.

[§] Amended 07/23/03

- 23.4 Measurement Of Noise Levels: Noise levels shall be measured as follows:
- 23.4.A Meter Setting: Any single event noise measurement made pursuant to the provisions of the Code shall be measured with a Type I sound level meter using the A-weighting and "slow" response pursuant to applicable manufacturer's instructions, except that for sounds of a duration of two seconds or less, the "fast" response shall be used. Any CNEL measurements shall be made with a Type I sound level meter using the A-weighted "slow" response.
- 23.4.B Meter Calibration: The sound level meter shall be calibrated to assure meter accuracy within the tolerances set forth in American National Standards, ANSI-SI.4.1971.
- 23.4.C Location Of Microphone: Noise measurements shall be taken at the following locations:
- (1) The location of the microphone used to measure noise from transportation sources and single noise events shall be in accordance with subsection 23.1.A. The microphone shall be oriented in the direction of the noise source.
 - (2) The location of the microphone for measuring CNELs in residential, commercial, tourist accommodation, recreation, wilderness, wildlife habitat areas and for responding to noise complaints shall be no less than four feet above the ground and shall utilize an appropriate wind screen to reduce the effect of wind noise. The microphone shall be placed on the property line closest to the noise source, or at the nearest point where the general public is legally entitled to congregate, whichever is closer to the noise source.
- 23.4.D Measurement Intervals: Sound levels shall be taken at intervals of ten seconds or less and an instant reading from the sound level meter shall be recorded. If the noise source is an impulse sound (a duration of one second or less) then each event shall be measured and recorded.
- 23.4.E Lake Tahoe Airport: Single event noise measurements shall be made as set forth in the adopted Lake Tahoe Airport Master Plan.
- 23.5 Monitoring: TRPA shall monitor single event and community noise levels regularly pursuant to TRPA's monitoring work program.
- 23.6 Performance Standards: Projects and activities in the following categories shall meet the stated performance standards to ensure that TRPA noise thresholds are attained and maintained:
- 23.6.A Airport: The applicable performance standards for the Lake Tahoe Airport are set forth in the adopted Lake Tahoe Airport Master Plan.
- 23.6.B Heliports And Seaplane Bases: [Reserved.]
- 23.6.C Helipads: [Reserved.]

- 23.6.D Highways And Transportation Corridors: Projects within transportation corridors shall include design criteria to help reduce the transmission of noise from the transportation corridor.
- 23.6.E Marinas: Marinas and boat launching facilities open to the public shall post conspicuous notices of the noise standards in 23.2.A. Rental and excursion operators shall not operate or offer for use or rent marine craft not in compliance with the standards in subsection 23.2.A.
- 23.6.F Off-Road Vehicles And Over-Snow Vehicles: Public agencies responsible for the administration of public lands and recreation areas shall post notices of the standards in subsection 23.2.A in conspicuous locations at access points to use areas. Rental and excursion operators shall not operate or offer for rent or use any off-road vehicle or over-snow vehicle not in compliance with the standards in subsection 23.2.A.
- 23.6.G Loudspeakers: No person shall use loudspeakers or similar devices for amplifying sound outdoors for the purpose of advertising products or services or to attract patrons.
- 23.7 Compliance: TRPA shall use the procedures set forth in this section to ensure that the noise thresholds are attained and maintained and to ensure compliance with this chapter:
- 23.7.A Project Review: TRPA shall not approve a project which causes a community noise standard (CNEL) to be exceeded. Based upon completion of an initial environmental checklist pursuant to Chapter 5, TRPA may require a noise impact report prior to approving a project.
- 23.7.B Complaint System: Upon receipt of a noise complaint or upon detection of a possible violation of a noise standard, TRPA may conduct a monitoring study in accordance with Section 23.4. Based on the results of the monitoring study, TRPA shall implement appropriate corrective measures under the provisions of Chapter 8 or 9. TRPA may delegate all or part of these activities to another public entity through a memorandum of understanding.
- 23.7.C Highways And Transportation Corridors: If, through routine monitoring programs, TRPA determines that noise standards are not being met in transportation corridors, TRPA, in cooperation with other local entities, shall develop a compliance program to ensure attainment and maintenance of the noise thresholds.
- 23.8 Exemptions To Noise Limitations: The standards of this chapter shall not apply to noise from TRPA-approved construction or maintenance projects, or the demolition of structures, provided such activities are limited to the hours between 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The standards of this chapter shall not apply to safety signals, warning devices, or emergency pressure relief valves and other similar devices. Emergency work to protect life or property is exempt from noise standards, as are fireworks used in accordance with a state or local permit.