

## THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACT, No. 47 OF 1980

REGULATIONS made by the minister of Transport, Environment and Women's Affairs under sections 23P, 23Q and 23R of the National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980 read with section 32 of that Act.

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MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT, AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS.

Colombo,  
21<sup>st</sup> May, 1996

### **Regulations**

These Regulations may be cited as the National Environmental (Noise Control) Regulations No. 1 of 1996.

Except in the instances where the provisions of regulation 7 applies, the maximum permissible noise levels at the boundary of the land in which any source of noise is located, shall not exceed the limits set out in the First Schedule hereto. The provisions of this regulation shall operate only in respect of the areas specified in the said schedule.

Except in the instances where the provisions of regulation 7 applies, where the background noise levels in relation to any source of noise exceeds the limits set out in the First schedule hereto, the limits set out in the Second Schedule hereto shall apply in respect of the areas specified therein.

Except in the instances where the provisions of regulation 7 applies and notwithstanding anything the contrary in regulations 2 and 3, the maximum permissible noise levels, at the boundary of any land in which any source of noise is located and emitted in consequence of the carrying out of any construction activity on such land, shall not exceed the limits set out in the Third Schedule hereto:

Provided that the noise levels caused by such activity shall not be carried on for a period which in the aggregate exceeds three months, without the written consent of the Authority given in respect of any such particular activity, or in terms of a licence granted under section 23A of the Act, for the discharge or emission of waste or the emission of noise.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in regulations 2,3 and 4 of these regulations any local authority may prepare in consultation with the Authority a noise zone map covering the area of authority of such local authority. Any noise zone map so prepared shall on completion be approved by the Authority. Any noise zone map so prepared and approved may be amended from to time.

Where the Authority approves any noise zone map in terms of regulation 5, it shall, by Notification published in the Gazette inform the public of such approval. With effect from the date of such Notification, regulation 2,3 and 4 of these regulations shall cease to apply within the area of authority of the respective local authority to which such noise zone map applies, and regulation 7 shall thereupon apply to the area covered by such noise zone map.

Where a noise zone map has been prepared and approved by the Authority in terms of regulation 6-

the maximum permissible noise levels at the boundary of the land in which any source of noise is located shall not exceed the limits set out in the Fourth Schedule hereto, within the respective areas specified in the said schedule, and which are demarcated on a noise zone map published under regulation 6.

Where the background noise levels in relation to any source of noise exceeds the limits set out in the Fourth Schedule hereto the limits set out in the Fifth Schedule hereto shall apply within the respective areas specified therein, and which are demarcated on a noise zone map published under regulation 6.

notwithstanding anything to the contrary in regulations 7 (a) and (b), the maximum permissible noise levels at the boundary of any land in which any source of noise is located and emitted in consequence of any construction activity, shall not exceed the limits set out in the Sixth schedule hereto within the areas specified therein, and which are demarcated on a noise zone map published under regulation 6.

Noise level measurements procedure, shall be in accordance with the criteria set out in the Seventh Schedule hereto.

The equipment used for noise level measurement shall be in accordance with the specifications set out in the Eighth Schedule hereto.

In these Regulations:-

"A- weighted" means a process of automatic adjustments made to the output of the Sound sensor in a sound level meter, so that the reading of the meter takes into account the frequency characteristics of the human ear;

"Act" means the National Environmental Act, No. 47 of 1980;

"Authority" means the Central Environmental Authority established under the Act;

"background noise level" means the A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual noise decibels exceeded for 90% of a given time interval;

"commercial area" means any area which consist predominantly of commercial buildings such as shops and offices, depicted in a noise zone map;

"day time" from 06.00 hours to 18.00 hours, except for the purposes of the Third and the Sixth Schedule hereto, where it means 06.00 hours to 21.00 hours;

"IEC" means the International Electro technical Commission;

"industrial area" means any area which consists predominantly of industries and manufacturing establishments, depicted in a noise zone map;

"ISO" means the International Organisation for Standardization.

"LAeq 'T' means the equivalent continuous, A- weighted sound pressure determined over a time interval T(in dB).

"local authority" means a Pradehshiya Sabha, Urban Council or Municipal Council and includes any authority created and established by or under any written law to exercise, perform and discharge powers, duties and functions corresponding to or similar to the powers, duties and functions exercised, performed and discharged by any such institution.

"mixed residential area" means an area consisting of residences and commercial establishments, depicted in a noise zone map.

"night time" means from 18.00 hours to 06.00 hours except for the purposes of the Third Schedule and the sixth Schedule hereto where it means 21.00 hours to 06.00 hours.

"Noise sensitive area" includes any area in which a courthouse, hospital, public library, school, zoo, sacred area and areas set a part for recreation or environmental purposes are depicted in a noise zone map;

"Noise zone map" means a survey map or plan of the whole or any part of the area of authority of any Local Authority demarcating such area in to rural residential, urban residential, commercial, industrial and noise sensitive areas and clearly identifying the metes and bounds and prepared to a scale of 1:10.000 in Pradeshiya Sabha areas and to a scale of 1:5000 in Urban or Municipal Council areas or to any other scale as may from time to time be stipulated by the Authority;

"Residual noise" means the ambient noise remaining at a given position in a given situation when the specific noise source is suppressed to such a degree that it does not contribute to the ambient noise;

"Rural residential area" means an area located within any area consisting predominantly of residences, depicted in a noise zone map;

"Urban residential area" means an area located within any build up area consisting predominantly of residences, and which are depicted in a noise zone map.

For the purposes of Schedules I and II:-

"Low noise area" means an area located within any Pradeshiya Sabha area.

"Medium noise area" means an area located within any Municipal Council or Urban Council area;

"high noise area" means any export processing zone established by the Board of Investment or industrial estates approved under part IV C of the National Environmental Act;

"Silent zone" means the area covered by a distance of 100 meters from the boundary of a courthouse, hospital, public library, school, zoo, sacred areas and areas set apart for recreation or environmental purposes.

### SCHEDULE 1

(Regulation 2)

Maximum Permissible Noise Levels at Boundaries in LAeq'T.

Area	LAeq'T	
	Day time	Night Time
Low Noise	55	45
Medium Noise	63*	50
High Noise	70	60
Silent Zone	50	45

\* Provided that the noise level should not exceed 60 dB (A) inside existing houses, during day time.

### SCHEDULE II

(Regulation 3)

The following noise levels will be allowed where the background noise level exceed or is marginal to the given levels in Schedule 1.

a) For low noise areas in which the background noise level exceed or is marginal to the given levels	Measured Background Noise level + 3 dB (A)
b) For medium noise areas in which the Background noise level exceeds or is Marginal to the given level	Measured Background Noise level + 3 dB (A)
c) For silent zone in which the background Noise level exceeds or is marginal to the Given level	Measured Background Noise level + 3 dB (A)
d) For high noise areas in which the background noise level exceeds or is marginal to the given level	
For day time	Measured Background Noise Level +5 dB (A)
For Night time	Measured Background Noise Level +3 dB (A)

The above maximum noise levels should be maintained inside the boundary of the land, in which the source noise is located.

### SCHEDULE III

(Regulation 4)

Maximum permissible Noise Levels at Boundaries of the land in which the source of noise is located in LAeq',T, for construction activities.

LAeq' ,T	
Day time	Night time
75	50

### SCHEDULE IV

(Regulation 7 (a))

Maximum permissible Noise levels at Boundaries in LAeq ,T, for industrial activities.

Areas	LAeq', T	
	Day time	Night time
Rural Residential Area	55	45
Urban Residential Area	60	50
Noise Sensitive Area	50	45
Mixed Residential	63	55
Commercial Areas	65	55
Industrial Area	70	60

### SCHEDULE V

(Regulation 7 (b) )

The following noise levels will be allowed in places where the background noise levels exceed or is marginal to the given levels in Schedule 1 :-

a. For rural residential areas in which the background Noise level exceeds or marginal to the given level	Measured Background Noise Level +3 dB (A)
b. For noise sensitive areas in which the background noise level exceeds or is marginal to the given level	Measured Background Noise Level +3 dB (A)
c. For noise sensitive areas in which the background Noise level exceeds or is marginal to the given level	Measured Background Noise Level +3 dB (A)
d. For mixed residential or commercial areas in which the background noise level exceed or marginal to the given level  (i) For day	Measured Background Noise Level +5 dB (A)

(ii) For night time	Measured Background Noise Level +3 dB (A)
e. For industrial areas in which the background noise level exceeds or is marginal to the given level	
(i) For day	Measured Background Noise Level +5 dB (A)
(ii) For night time	Measured Background Noise Level +3 dB (A)

### SCHEDULE VI

(Regulation 7 (c) )

Area	LAeq' T	
	Day time	Night Time
Industrial/Commercial	75	60
Urban/Rural/Mixed Residential	65	50

### SCHEDULE VII

(Regulation 8)

#### (1). Measurement Procedure:

Environmental noise level measurements should be carried out generally in accordance with the methods laid down either in 150 1996 (Parts 1,2,3) and BS 4142:1990. The specific noise level shall be determined by measurement, or by a combination of measurements and calculations as given in B5 4142:1990.

#### (2). Measurement Time Interval:

Each measurement time shall be chosen so that all significant variations of noise emission and transmission are covered.

Each measurement time shall not exceed one (1) hour during the day time, and five (5) minutes during night time, for industrial areas.

Each measurement time shall not exceed five (5) minutes during the day time, night time for construction activities.

#### (3). Correction to Measured Noise Level:

The following corrections should be made to the measured level according to the characteristic features of the noise :-

<b>Characteristic features of the noise</b>	<b>Correction dB(A)</b>
Impulsive noise (Bangs, clicks, clatters, thumps, etc.)	+5
Tonal character (whine, hiss, screech, hum, etc.)	+5

The measurement procedure set out above will be superseded by procedure duly adopted by the Sri Lanka Standards Institute for such purpose.

### **SCHEDULE VIII**

**(Regulation 9)**

#### **(1). Measuring Equipment.**

Noise levels shall be measured in terms of LAeq'T by either of the following means :-

- i. Using integrating averaging sound level meter complying with type 2 of BS 6698 : 1986 (IEC 804) or complying with standards or by means of a measuring equipment recommended by the Authority.
- ii. If noise is steady, by visually averaging an analogue output from a sound level meter set to frequency weighing "A" and time weighing "S" and complying with type 2 of BS 5969: 1989 (IEC 651) or complying with standards or by means of a Measuring equipment recommended by the Authority.

Note: Use of integrating - averaging sound level meter complying with type 1 of BS 6998 (IEC 804) is preferred.

#### **(2). Calibration**

Before and after each series of measurements sound level meter should be calibrated using acoustic calibrator or pistonophone complying with class 2 of BS 7189: 1989 (IEC 942), or complying with standards or by means of Measuring equipment recommended by the Authority.