

Article 407: NOISE STANDARDS

(Amended 3/12/2013)

- 407.1** Excessive noise at unreasonable hours shall be controlled so as not to be objectionable due to intermittence, beat frequency, shrillness, vibration, or volume.
- 407.2** The maximum permissible sound pressure level of any activity regulated by this ordinance shall be established by the time period and type of zoning district listed below. Sound pressure levels shall be measured at all major lot lines, at a height of at least four (4) feet above the ground surface of the upper most level of the building. Sound from any source controlled by this ordinance shall not exceed the following limits at the property line of the “sender” premises.

Sound Pressure Level Limits
Measured in DB(A)’s
DB(A) = Average Decibel Level

	<u>7am to 9pm</u>	<u>9pm to 7 am</u>
Rural Residential District	60	50
Single Family Residential / SFR Agricultural	55	45
Commercial Zones I, II and III	70	65

- A.** Where the emitting and receiving premises are in different districts, the limits governing the stricter district shall apply to any regulated noise entering that district.

- 407.3** Noise shall be measured with a sound meter meeting the standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI S1.4-1983 *American Standard Specification for General Purpose Sound Level Meters*). The instrument shall be set to the A-weighted response scale, and the meter to the slow response. Measurements shall be conducted in accordance with ANSI S 12.31 and S 12.32 *American Standard Meter for the Physical Measurement of Sound*.

- 407.4** No person shall engage in, cause or permit to be

engaged in, construction activities producing excessive noise on sites abutting any residential use between the hours of 6PM on one day and 7AM of the following day Monday through Friday or anytime on Saturday and Sunday. Construction activities shall be subject to the maximum permissible sound level specified for industrial districts for the periods within which construction is to be completed pursuant to any applicable building permit.

The following uses and activities shall be exempt from the sound pressure level regulations:

- A.** Home maintenance activities (i.e., mowing lawns, cutting one's own firewood, etc.) between the hours of 7AM and 9PM;
- B.** Timber harvesting (felling trees and removing logs from the woods);
- C.** Noises created by construction and maintenance activities between 7AM and 9PM Monday through Friday in all business, industrial districts, additionally, on Saturday and Sunday between 7AM and 9PM all noise shall comply with the residential sound pressure level limits;
- D.** Noises created by construction and maintenance activities between 7AM and 9PM in all other districts;
- E.** The noises of safety signals, warning devices and emergency pressure relief valves and any other public emergency activity;
- F.** Traffic noise on existing public streets, railways or river traffic;
- G.** Legal preexisting uses between the hours of 7AM and 9PM;
- H.** Occasional outdoor gatherings, street sales, public dances, shows, sporting events and entertainment events; provided, these are regulated pursuant to this ordinance;
- I.** Public events as authorized by, though not

necessarily limited to, the Board of Selectmen, School Board, Police Department, Fire Department and other such Boards who in the conduct of their activities represent the Board.

- 407.5** These noise regulations are enforceable by Law Enforcement Officers and by the Code Official (who may measure noise levels, and who shall report documented violations to the police). For the purposes of enforcement, sound exceeding the above limits shall be deemed to constitute “Unreasonable Noise” under the Town Noise Ordinance.
- 407.6** This Ordinance is not intended to make any changes in any lawful existing land uses or prevent the continuance of such uses.