

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Science & Technology

No.EDN[S&T]-A(3)1/2003 Dated Shimla-2, 31-10-2003.

N O T I F I C A T I O N

The increasing ambient noise levels in public places from various sources. inter-alia use of loudspeakers, fire crackers especially with the use of public address systems (Microphones), music systems, pressure horns and other mechanical devices are affecting the human health and the psychological well being of the society adversely. Further, it has come to the notice of the Government that during the various functions noise levels exceed far beyond the prescribed limits and pose considerable health risks to the people.

And Now, it is therefore, necessary to issue following directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 [29 of 1986] and Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 (as amended from time to time) to check the menace of the noise pollution in the State:

A. Standards for the Use of Microphones and Instrumental Sound/Noise:

- i). No Public Address System [Microphones] shall operate after 10-00 p.m. and before 6-00 a.m. and all the Loudspeakers should be fitted with "Sound Limiter".
- ii). The Microphone used in sound amplification in the public address system shall not be pointed outward. It should be pointed inward to the gathering concerned.

Contd...2/-

- iii). No Public Address system [Microphones] shall operate for any time in the Silence Zones, i.e. 100 meters around the premises of Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Educational Institutions and Courts and these restrictions of use of microphones shall be operative during the working hours of the Schools, Colleges and Library Offices.
- iv). No Loudspeaker(s) shall be allowed to be used without the prior permission of the local Police Authority/Sub-Divisional Magistrate/District Magistrate in their respective jurisdictions.
- v). For the use of loudspeakers, the "Authority" as prescribed under Rule 2(c) of the Noise Pollution [Regulation and Control] Rules, 2000 [hereinafter called as said Rules] shall ensure following sound levels in the concerned Area/Zones as described Under Rule 3 of the said Rules:

	Area	Day Time*	Night Time**
A	Industrial Area	75 dB/Leq	70 dB/Leq
B	Commercial Area	65 dB/Leq	55 dB/Leq
C	Residential Area	55 dB/Leq	45 dB/Leq

*). Day time is reckoned in between 6-00 a.m. to 10-00 p.m.

**). Night time is reckoned in between 10-00 p.m. to 6-00 a.m.

- vi). During the time of any function in the Street or any other public place passage shall be kept open for the passers-by.

Contd...P-3/-

vii). The concerned "Authority" while granting permission to any loudspeaker to be used in the open place shall ensure that "Sound Limiters" are fitted to these sound making devices by the Operator(s) so that the sound levels remain under control as per the prescribed limits contained above in para A(v).

viii). Between 6-00 a.m. to 10-00 p.m. the loudspeakers to be used in cultural/religious places or any other function shall maintain the ambient air quality standard as prescribed above in para A(v). After 10-00 p.m. cultural function shall be arranged within a temporarily covered area, with sound absorbing materials, provided:-

- a) All operators shall also maintain the ambient noise/sound levels outside the covered area as prescribed under Act and Rules *ibid*.
- b) No microphones or loudspeakers shall be allowed to be fitted or operated outside such covered area and that too only box-type loudspeakers are allowed to be used in-side the covered area.
- c) For the use of Public Address System or microphone in any cultural/religious functions permission thereof shall be obtained from the local Police Authority/ Sub-Divisional Magistrate/District Magistrate of the area.

Contd...P-4/-

- ix). The "Sound Limiters" applied for the control of sound/noise by the operator as described above, shall keep the sound/noise levels within the prescribed limits.
- x). The Loudspeakers [Microphones] used in cultural/religious places shall maintain the ambient air standards as per the prescribed norms.
- xi). No permission(s) shall be allowed for open place function three days before starting of important examinations such as Schools/Colleges, entrance tests of State Levels such as Pre-Medical/Pre-Engineering Tests and/or any other competitive examinations to be conducted by the H.P. State Public Service Commission/Union Public Service Commission/Board at the State/National Level, where large number of students are involved, till such examinations/tests are over.

B. Noise Standards for Fire-Crackers:

- i). The manufacture, sale or use of fire-crackers generating noise levels exceeding 125 dB(AI) or 145 dB(C)pk at 4 meters distance from the point of bursting shall be prohibited.
- ii). For individual fire-cracker constituting the series (joined fire-cracker), the above mentioned limit be reduced by $5 \log_{10}(N)$ dB, where N = number of crackers joined together.

Contd...P-5/-

iii). The use of fire-works or fire-crackers shall not be permitted except 6-00 p.m. to 10-00 p.m. No fire works or fire crackers shall be used between 10-00 p.m. and 6-00 a.m. throughout the State.

iv). No fire-works or fire-crackers shall be allowed at any time in the Silence Zone as defined in the Rules ibid.

C. Standards for Vehicular Horns:

i). The use of pressure horns shall be stopped completely.

ii). No horns will be used in Silence Zone at any time.

iii). No horns shall be used after 10-00 p.m. to 6-00 a.m.

These directions shall come into force with immediate effect.

By Order

[J.P. Negi]

Principal Secretary [S&T] to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Endst. No. As above.

Dated: Shimla-2. 31-10-2002

Copy forwarded to :

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[Signature]
Addl. Secretary (S&T) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
