

Noise Pollution Rules:

Subject to the provisions of the Rule 3 of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, the State Government shall categorize the area into industrial, commercial residential or silence areas/zones for the purpose of implementation of noise, standards for different area.

The State Government shall take measures for abatement of noise including the noise emanating from vehicular movements and ensure that the existing noise levels do not exceed the ambient air quality standards specified under these rules.

All development authorities, local bodies and other concerned authorities while planning development activity or carrying out functions relating to town and country planning shall take into consideration all aspects of noise pollution as a parameter of quality of life to avoid noise menace and to achieve the objective of maintaining the ambient air quality standards in respect of noise.

An area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospital, educational institutions and courts may be declared as silence area/zone for the purpose of these rules.

Responsibility as to enforcement of noise pollution control measures

The noise levels in any area/zones shall not exceed the ambient air quality standards in respect of noise as specified in the Schedule.

The authority shall be responsible for the enforcement of noise pollution control measures and the due compliance of the ambient air quality standards in respect of noise.

Restriction on the use of loud speakers/public address system

A loud speaker or a public address system shall not be used except after obtaining written permission from the authority.

A loud speaker or a public address system shall not be used at night (between 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.) except in closed premises for communication within, e.g. auditoria, conference rooms, community halls and banquet halls.

Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (2), the State Government may subject to such terms and conditions as are necessary to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud speakers or public address systems during night hours (between 10.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding fifteen days in all during a calendar year.

Consequences of any violation in silence zone/area

Whoever, in any place covered under the silence zone/area commits any of the following offence, he shall be liable for penalty under the provisions of the Act: -

- i. whoever, plays any music or uses any sound amplifiers,
- ii. whoever, beats a drum or tom-tom or blows a horn either musical or pressure, or trumpet or beats or sounds any instrument, or
- iii. whoever, exhibits any mimetic, musical or other performance of a nature to attract crowds.

Complaints to be made to the authority

A person may, if the noise level exceeds the ambient noise standards by 10 dB(A) or more given in the corresponding columns in the ambient air quality standards in respect of noise for different areas/zones, make a complaint to the authority.

Power to prohibit etc. continuance of music sound or noise

If the authority is satisfied from the report of an officer in charge of a police station or other information received by him that it is necessary to do so in order to prevent annoyance, disturbance, discomfort or injury or risk of annoyance, disturbance, discomfort or injury to the public or to any person who dwell or occupy property on the vicinity, he may, by a written order issue such directions as he may consider necessary to any person for preventing, prohibiting, controlling or regulating: -

- (a) the incidence or continuance in or upon any premises of -
 - i. any vocal or instrumental music,
 - ii. sounds caused by playing, beating, clashing, blowing or use in any manner whatsoever of any instrument including loudspeakers, public address system, application or apparatus or contrivance which is capable of producing or re-producing sound, or
- (b) the carrying on in or upon, any premises of any trade, avocation or operation or process resulting in or attended with noise.

The authority empowered under sub-rule (1) may, either on its own motion, or on the application of any person aggrieved by an order made under sub-rule (1), either rescind, modify or alter any such order:

Provided that before any such application is disposed of, the said authority shall afford to the applicant an opportunity of appearing before it either in person or by a person representing him and showing cause against the order and shall, if it rejects any such application either wholly or in part, record its reasons for such rejection.