

## Chapter 140

### NOISE CONTROL

§ 140-1. Purpose.

§ 140-2. Definitions.

§ 140-3. Prohibited acts.

§ 140-4. Exemptions.

§ 140-5. Violations and penalties.

**[HISTORY: Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Camp Hill XX-XX-20XX by Ord. No. XXX, approved XX-XX-20XX. Amendments noted where applicable.]**

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#### GENERAL REFERENCES

Animals – See Chapter 71

Construction Code – See Chapter 90

Curfew – See Chapter 93

Peddling & Soliciting – See Chapter 150

Land Use – See Zoning Ordinance

#### § 140-1. Purpose.

The Council of the Borough of Camp Hill, finding that excessive levels of sound are detrimental to the physical, mental and social well-being of the people as well as to their general welfare and safety and therefore constitute a public health and welfare hazard, finds it to be necessary to provide for control and regulation of excessive sound and the sources of excessive sound within the Borough.

#### § 140-2. Definitions and word usage.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

**AMBIENT SOUND LEVEL** — the sound level, as measured in decibels, in the area of interest, including a composite of sounds from near and far sources, but excluding extraneous or extraordinary noise sources, such as ambulance sirens. Ambient measurements are to be taken where the noise from the non-residential use cannot be heard, or when the use is not in operation and therefore not producing noise. The ambient sound level shall be considered the level that is exceeded ninety (90) percent of the time when the noise measurements are taken – to be determined by the Borough Code Division and/or designee of.

**CONSTRUCTION OPERATION** — the erection, repair, renovation, demolition or removal of any building or structure and the excavation, filling, grading and regulation of lots in connection therewith (e.g. erosion control planning, stormwater management analysis, etc.).

**EMERGENCY WORK** — any work performed for the purpose of preventing or alleviating the physical trauma or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency.

#### § 140-3. Prohibited acts.

Noise disturbance prohibited. No person shall make, continue or cause to be made or continued any noise disturbance. A noise disturbance is defined as any sound which:

- A. Measured at a property line from which the sound originated, is in excess of the limits set forth for the receiving land use category in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Permissible Maximum Sound Levels by Property Line of Sound Origination**

Sound Originating Land Use	Maximum Sound Level <sup>i</sup> (dBA)	
	7:00am to 9:00pm other than weekends and Federal Holidays	9:00pm to 7:00am; also all day on weekends and Federal Holidays
Residential (at the lot line of a property within the Residential Zoning Districts or an existing residential-only use in the Mixed Use Zoning Districts)	60 dBA or 10 dBA above ambient sound level, whichever is higher.	52 dBA or 10 dBA above ambient sound level, whichever is higher.
Other	67 dBA or 10 dBA above ambient sound level, whichever is higher.	62 dBA or 10 dBA above ambient sound level, whichever is higher.

- B. Produces vibration which is transmitted through the ground and is discernible without the aid of instruments at or at any point beyond the lot line from which the sound or vibration originated;
- C. Produces any vibration in excess of 0.002g peak measured at or beyond the lot line from which the sound originated using either seismic or electronic vibration measuring equipment.

**§ 140-4. Exemptions.**

The following sounds are exempted from the provisions of this chapter:


- A. Emergency work: sounds caused by the performance of emergency work or by the ordinary and accepted use of emergency apparatus and equipment.
- B. Municipal and utility services: sounds resulting from the repair or replacement of any municipal or utility installation in or about the public right-of-way or all municipal collections.
- C. Concerts, block parties, carnivals, or other performances or similar activities as permitted or authorized by the Borough, provided that such activities do not occur between the hours of 9:00 pm and 7:00 am or as otherwise permitted or authorized.
- D. School and public activities: sounds created by organized school-related programs, activities and athletic and entertainment events or other public programs, activities or events.
- E. Construction operations during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, when permission to do such work has been given by the proper officers of the Borough.
- F. Household power tools and gardening/lawn care instruments between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- G. Routine ringing of bells and chimes by a place of worship or Borough clock.
- H. Agricultural activities, including permitted agricultural operations, but not exempting a commercial kennel.
- I. Vehicles operating on a public street, railroads and aircraft.
- J. Emergency power generation equipment used during a power outage.

**§ 140-5. Violations and penalties.**

Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof in a summary proceeding, be sentenced to pay a fine of no less than \$150 and no more than \$600 for each offense. Each day during which any person violates any provision of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. This chapter may be enforced by the Camp Hill Borough Police Department or the Camp Hill Borough Code Enforcement Department.







<sup>i</sup> The maximum sound levels have been established for use in Camp Hill Borough after review and consideration of Noise Ordinances utilized in numerous communities across the Commonwealth. As a reference, the following noise level charts show examples of sounds with dB levels ranging from 0 to 180 decibels as illustrated by the Hearing Health Foundation and [www.noisehelp.com](http://www.noisehelp.com):

**Hearing Health Foundation** aims to educate Americans about safe listening levels and how to prevent noise-induced hearing loss. Nearly 50 million Americans, including 1 in 5 teenagers, suffer from hearing loss.



## How Loud Is Too Loud?

Sound level is measured in decibels (dB). As the number of decibels increases, so does the risk of harm to hearing, as shown in the guide below.

<p><b>140-165</b> Firecracker, shotgun firing</p>	<p><b>75</b> Dishwasher</p>	
<p><b>140</b> Jet taking off</p>	<p><b>70</b> Hair dryer, vacuum</p>	
<p><b>120</b> Ambulance siren, thunderclap</p>	<p><b>60</b> Normal conversation</p>	
<p><b>110</b> Jackhammer, rock concert, symphony orchestra Regular exposure of more than 1 minute at or above 110 decibels risks permanent hearing loss.</p>	<p><b>40</b> Refrigerator</p>	
<p><b>105</b> MP3 players at maximum volume No more than 15 minutes of unprotected exposure at or above 100 decibels is recommended.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Whisper</p>	
<p><b>95</b> Subway platform</p>	<p><b>0</b> Smallest sound a person with normal hearing can detect.</p>	
<p><b>85</b> Heavy city traffic, school cafeteria Prolonged exposure to any noise at or above 85 decibels can cause gradual hearing loss.</p>		

Noise Level Chart <a href="http://www.noisehelp.com">www.noisehelp.com</a>			
dBA	Example	Home & Yard Appliances	Workshop & Construction
0	healthy hearing threshold		
10	a pin dropping		
20	rustling leaves		
30	whisper		
40	babbling brook	computer	
50	light traffic	refrigerator	
60	conversational speech	air conditioner	
70	shower	dishwasher	
75	toilet flushing	vacuum cleaner	
80	alarm clock	garbage disposal	
85	passing diesel truck	snow blower	
90	squeeze toy	lawn mower	arc welder
95	inside subway car	food processor	belt sander
100	motorcycle (riding)		handheld drill
105	sporting event		table saw
110	rock band		jackhammer
115	emergency vehicle siren		riveter
120	thunderclap		oxygen torch
125	balloon popping		
130	peak stadium crowd noise		
135	air raid siren		
140	jet engine at takeoff		
145	firecracker		
150	fighter jet launch		
155	cap gun		
160	shotgun		
165	.357 magnum revolver		
170	safety airbag		
175	howitzer cannon		
180	rocket launch		
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194	sound waves become shock waves		