

Southborough Board of Health
Noise Pollution Policy

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The citizens of Southborough have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise. These noise pollution procedures are enacted to minimize excessive noise which may jeopardize the health and welfare of its citizens or degrade their quality of life.

SECTION 2: POLICY

Boards of health have broad authority under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts law (M.G.L. Chapter 111, Sections 31C and 122) to investigate and control nuisance conditions. Local Board of Health's are empowered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (310 CMR 7.52) to take enforcement action against violators of the noise, odor and dust regulations (310 CMR 7.09-7.10).

The Board of Health endorses the policy adopted by the Commonwealth's Division of Air Quality Control (DAQC 90-001). The Department's existing guideline for enforcing its noise regulation (310 CMR 7.10) is being reaffirmed as follows:

A source of sound will be considered to be violating the Department's noise regulation (310 CMR 7.10) if the source:

1. Increases the broadband sound level by more than 10dB (A) above ambient, or
2. Produces a "pure tone" condition when any octave band center frequency sound pressure level exceeds the two adjacent center frequency sound pressure levels by 3 decibels or more.

These criteria are measured both at the property line and at the nearest inhabited residence. Ambient is defined as the background A-weighted sound level that is exceeded 90% of the time measured during equipment operating hours. The ambient may also be established by other means with the consent of the Department.

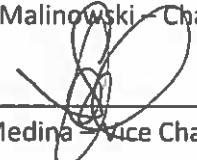
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