

FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria and MN Noise Standards

Table 1 FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria

Activity Category	Activity Criteria(1,2) L10(h), dBA	Evaluation Location	Activity Description
A	60	Exterior	Lands on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose.
B(3)	70	Exterior	Residential
C(3)	70	Exterior	Active sport areas, amphitheatres, auditoriums, campgrounds, cemeteries, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, parks, picnic areas, places of worship, playgrounds, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, recreation areas, Section 4(f) sites, schools, television studios, trails, and trail crossings
D	55	Interior	Auditoriums, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, places of worship, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, schools, and television studios
E(3)	75	Exterior	Hotels, motels, offices, restaurants/bars, and other developed lands, properties or activities not included in A-D or F.
F	--	--	Agriculture, airports, bus yards, emergency services, industrial, logging, maintenance facilities, manufacturing, mining, rail yards, retail facilities, shipyards, utilities (water resources, water treatment, electrical), and warehousing
G	--	--	Undeveloped lands that are not permitted

Notes
 (1) L10(h) shall be used for impact assessment.
 (2) The L10(h) Activity Criteria values are for impact determination only, and are not design standards for noise abatement measures.
 (3) Includes undeveloped lands permitted for this activity category.

Table 2 Minnesota State Noise Standard

Land Use	NAC: Noise Area Classification	Exterior Hourly Noise Level Limit, dBA			
		Daytime 7:00 am to 10:00 pm		Nighttime 10:00 pm to 7:00 am	
		L10	L50	L10	L50
Residential	NAC-1	65	60	55	50
Commercial	NAC-2	70	65	70	65
Industrial	NAC-3	80	75	80	75

Notes,
 1. NAC-1 includes household units, transient lodging and hotels, educational, religious, cultural entertainment, camping and picnicking land uses
 2. NAC-2 includes retail and restaurants, transportation terminals, professional offices, parks, recreational and amusement land uses.
 3. NAC-3 includes industrial, manufacturing, transportation facilities (except terminals), and utilities land uses
 4. From Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minn. Rules sec. 7030.0040