



Town Of Durham

630 Hallowell Road
Durham, Maine 04222

Incorporated 1789

www.durhammaine.gov

Tel: 207-353-2561

Fax: 207-353-5367

NOISE STANDARDS MINOR POLICY CHANGES

Summary

The proposed changes to the noise regulations expand the land use categories to better match the varied uses in Durham. Daytime hours will be extended from 7 pm to 9 pm, while noise-generating construction hours will be adjusted from 6:30 am to 7am. A specific limit for impulsive or intermittent noise levels will be established and the standards for measurement of sound will be updated to current industry standards. The format of sound studies, when a study is required, and the required qualifications of those doing studies will be specified.

Current vs. Proposed Noise Standards

Aspect	Current	Proposed
Daytime & Nighttime Hours	(D) Daytime (7 am – 7 pm) (N) Nighttime (7 pm – 7 am)	(D) Daytime (7 am – 9 pm) (N) Nighttime (9 pm – 7 am)
Sound Pressure Limits	All Land Uses: 55 dB (D) 45 dB (N)	Residential: 55 dB (D) 45 dB (N) Agricultural: 60 dB (D) 50 dB (N) Commercial: 65 dB (D) 55 dB (N)
Measurement Method	ANSI SI 4-1961 standard Meter set to A-weighted, fast response	Updated to ANSI S1.4-2014 or IEC 61672-1 Class 1, Conditions: wind <10 mph, no precipitation, 10-min continuous measurement, calibrated equipment
Impulsive/Intermittent	No standard specified	Max 75 dB at property boundary
Construction Noise	No construction near residential uses from 9 pm to 6:30 am	Updated from 9 pm to 7 am
Noise Studies	Not required	Required for enforcement or conditional use review; must be conducted by certified acoustical engineer; includes baseline measurement, source ID, impact assessment, & mitigation
Mitigation Measures	Not specified	May include barriers, building containment, operational limits, quieter equipment
Exemptions	Safety signals, warning devices, emergency pressure relief valves, emergency activities	Expanded to include: emergency vehicles; special events with Town approval; and, temporary activities with special permit

Why the Changes?

The current noise regulations are outdated and lack adequate specificity and flexibility to be effective for the community, workable for individuals, and fully enforceable.

We want to hear from you!

Do you support the proposed changes to the noise standards? Do you have any concerns about them? Please share your thoughts with the Planning Board during the public participation process. You can submit written comments to the Town Planner for circulation to the Board by emailing townplanner@durhammaine.gov.