

SOME ACTIVITIES REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

- Any business engaging in activities which produces noise such as industry, commercial, construction, transportation, entertainment (night clubs), parks loudspeakers and sound making devices.
- The fees for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) vary based on the activity and in accordance with the Noise Management Regulations.
- A letter of variance is required from the EPA if an EA holder changes his operations causing an increase in noise.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

For an offence relating to noise disturbances; Defaulters on summary conviction may be required to pay between \$80,000 to \$750,000 and can face up to one year imprisonment.

Businesses can employ sound technology and implement good management practices to help protect Guyana's environment.

HOW LOUD IS LOUD?

The loudness or intensity of sound is measured in units called decibels (dB). Each 10 point increase in decibel level indicates a tenfold increase in sound intensity. Through the Environmental Protection Act, the EPA has responsibility of setting permissible levels for activities which produce noise.

• Categories	Day(dB)	Night(dB)
• Residential	75	60
• Institutional	75	60
• Educational	75	60
• Industrial	100	80
• Commercial	80	65
• Construction	90	75
• Transportation	100	80
• Recreational	100	70

CONTACT US

Environmental Protection Agency
(EPA), Guyana
Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown
Tel. (592) 225-5467-9/5471-2/6044
Email: eit.epaguyana@gmail.com
Facebook: Environmental Protection Agency
Instagram : @epagyig
Youtube: Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

NOISE



WHAT IS NOISE POLLUTION?

Noise is unwanted sound and noise pollution is defined as noise levels that exceed the permissible or allowable levels.

It can block, distort or change the meaning of a message in both human and electronic communication.

SOURCES OF NOISE

Road Traffic and Entertainment

- Road traffic noise is one of the most widespread and growing environmental problems in urban areas. The use of loud speakers and sound-making devices is also becoming an increasing nuisance in buildings, parks, vehicles and private premises.

Industrial and Construction noise

Construction work and industrial processes are also major sources of noise. Some construction activities may be stopped during certain hours of the day.

Residential Noise and sound making devices

Significant sources of noise comes from barking dogs, lawn mowers, car alarms and household equipment. There are restrictions on the operation of sound making devices in public places.

Machinery and Power tools

Other popular sources of noise includes power tools and machinery which are used for large scale activities.

HOW DOES NOISE AFFECT US?

High noise levels can have negative impacts on our health and the environment. Some of these are:

Health effects

- Hearing loss
- hypertension & heart disease as a result of stress
- Aggressive behaviour.
- Poor Concentration.
- Communication difficulties.
- Annoyance/Discomfort.
- Fatigue due to insufficient rest/sleep.

Environmental Effects

Noise disrupts the peace and balance in the natural environment.

- Causes stress in animals and increasing the risk of death.
- Interfere with the use of sound communication.
- Reduces usable habitat.
- Species are forced to communicate louder (Lombard vocal response)

Other Effects

- Unhappy neighbours, restlessness
- Lowered property value for residential and communication building.
- Danger to people-cover warning signals & may cause accidents among.

NOISE CONTROL MEASURES

Any person who emits excessive or unusual noise which can be plainly heard 50 feet away is committing an offense.

The Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations 2000 was developed under the Environmental Protection Act to protect against pollution.

