

7.8. Noise Standards

7.8.1. The following maximum noise levels measured at the stated times at the boundary of any land used for a residential activity shall not be exceeded:

7.8.1.1. Monday to Friday – 8.00 am to 11.00 pm	55dBA L10
Saturday – 8.00 am to 6.00 pm	55dBA L10
At all other times including any public holiday	45dBA L10, Lmax 75dBA

7.8.2. Provided these limits shall not apply where there is any residential activity on the same site in the Industrial Zone. Road traffic noise is also exempt from these standards.

7.8.3. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 the following noise limits shall not be exceeded at the boundary of any site within the Industrial, Port and Cement Zones:

7.8.3.1. Monday to Friday – 8.00 am to 11.00 pm	60dBA L10
Saturday – 8.00 am to 6.00 pm	60dBA L10
At all other times including any public holiday	50dBA L10

7.8.3.2. Sound levels shall be measured in accordance with New Zealand Standard 6801:1991 “Measurement of Sound” and assessed in accordance with the provisions of New Zealand Standard 6802:1991 “Assessment of Environmental Sound”.

7.8.3.3. Noise associated with helicopter landing areas shall be measured and assessed in accordance with the provisions of New Zealand Standard 6807:1994 “Noise Management and Land Use Planning for Helicopter Landing Areas”. Helicopter operations shall be conducted so that the limits in Table 1 of New Zealand Standard 6807:1994 are not exceeded.

7.8.3.4. Construction noise emanating from any site shall not exceed the limits recommended in, and be measured and assessed in accordance with the provisions of New Zealand Standard 6803P:1984 “The Measurement and Assessment of Noise from Construction, Maintenance, and Demolition Work”.

7.8.3.5. Noise shall be measured with a sound level meter complying with the International Standard IEC 651 (1979): Sound Level Meters Type 2.

7.8.4. Compliance with any provision of this rule does not grant the right to create any nuisance as defined under the Health Act 1956 or negate the duty to avoid unreasonable noise or to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment as required by Sections 16 and 17 of the Act, or to their amendments thereto and substitutions therefore.

7.8.5. Explanation/Reasons

7.8.5.1. Noise standards are set to prevent cumulative increases in background noise levels and to ensure the protection of community health and amenity.

7.8.5.2. Excessive or high levels of noise can have a detrimental impact on environmental quality. The Act requires that environmental quality is to be maintained and enhanced. Therefore the control of noise sources is justifiable in order to prevent an increase in the overall ambient noise in the environment. The standards aim at the very least to maintain noise in the environment originating from human activity at current levels and where possible to actually improve background noise exposure.

7.8.5.3. Roads and state highways are exempt from noise standards because they cannot comply with a 45dBA limit.

7.8.5.4. The Act requires the Council to control the emission of noise and to mitigate any adverse effects of noise. Noise nuisance and excessive noise are recognised as having a detrimental public health impact and can also affect amenity values of a neighbourhood. The rules set out above prescribe quantitative noise limits aimed at maintaining or even reducing existing background noise levels and to protect neighbours (and occupiers of the property) from adverse effects. The standards differ according to time of day and week, location and type of activity concerned.