

Noise Control Guidelines for Holding Open Air Entertainment Activities

1. *Introduction*

These guidelines are to provide information to organizers for holding large scale outdoor activities (activities that extensive sound amplification systems have been employed and would likely cause noise disturbance on nearby residents) on the noise control requirement and the ways to minimise noise emission from the events.

2. *Noise control requirements*

Noise level from the activity (including rehearsal and main event) should not be more than 10 dB(A) above the prevailing background noise level, as measured at one metre from the exterior building facade of the most affected noise sensitive receivers, during day time and evening period, i.e. 7 a.m. to 11p.m. The noise levels shall be measured in terms of Leq(15min.), 15-minute A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level, which is the A-weighted energy mean of the noise level averaged over 15 minutes. For the nighttime, i.e. 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., noise from events should not be audible within nearby noise sensitive receivers.

3. *Noise monitoring*

The organizer should appoint an appropriate person to monitor the noise situation by sound level meter at the most affected noise sensitive receiver. That person should provide feedback to the organizer for immediate action, such as adjustment of the speaker output level, whenever necessary. Noise measurement should be conducted at least hourly during the event, of which the results should be recorded properly and submitted to the venue owner subsequently. The venue owner will provide the recorded measurements for reference of Environmental Protection Department when requested for any necessary follow up investigation. The sound level meter should comply with International Electrical Commission Publications 651:1979 (Type 1) and 804:1985 (Type 1).

4. *Complaint hotline*

During the activities, the organizer should provide a manned complaint hotline (Tape recording is not acceptable) so that action can be immediately taken to reduce the noise in response to complaints raised by nearby residents or relayed from other parties such as Food and Environmental Hygiene Department/Leisure and Cultural Services Department or Police.

5. *Advance notice to nearby noise sensitive receivers*

The organizer should arrange to distribute advance notices to nearby residential buildings, hospitals or other noise sensitive uses to alert the people of the date, time, venue and programme of the activity, and the complaint hotline to which they can lodge their concern in case the noise from the activity is considered excessive.

6. *Other recommended noise mitigation measures when PA or loudspeakers systems are used*

- to orientate stage to point away from the nearby noise sensitive receivers;
- to use a cluster of small power loudspeakers instead of a few large power loudspeakers; and
- to use directional loudspeakers and orientate them to point towards the audience and away from the nearby noise sensitive receivers;

7. *Rehearsal*

Rehearsal might also cause noise disturbance. Testing of sound system should be shortened as much as practicable and full blown rehearsal should be minimised. In all respects, actions mentioned in paragraphs 2 to 6 should also be implemented including noise measurement. To minimize the inconvenience caused to nearby residents, rehearsal should be carried out during the time period between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

8. *Other related noisy activities*

Other related noisy activities, such as preparation and tidying up of the venue, might also cause noise disturbance. In all respects, actions mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 should also be implemented. To minimize the inconvenience caused to nearby residents, such activities should be carried out during the time period between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

