

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
BOARD OF HEALTH

**NOISE AND EXCESSIVE VIBRATION REGULATIONS**

Approved by<sup>1</sup>:

Board of Health ..... May 14, 2015  
Department of Law ..... May 20, 2015  
Department of Records ..... June 22, 2015

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<sup>1</sup> Amended: 1/24/06: See Section 7 of City Council Bill 050749, <http://legislation.phila.gov/attachments/1481.pdf> ;  
Amended: 6/22/15.  
Noise and Excessive Vibration Regulation  
Page 1 of 3

## **PREFACE**

These Noise and Excessive Vibration Regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 10-400 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Noise and Excessive Vibration,” and Section 10-407, thereof, entitled “Powers and Duties of the Board of Health.”

## **NOISE AND EXCESSIVE VIBRATION REGULATIONS**

### **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS**

- A. All Definitions provided in Section 10-402 of Chapter 10-400 of The Philadelphia Code (the “Noise Code”), apply to these Regulations.
- B. In addition to definitions provided in the Noise Code, the following definition applies to these Regulations:
  - (1) **Noise.** The presence of a sound or sounds of such intensity, duration, frequency, or character which annoy, disturb, or cause or tend to cause adverse psychological and physiological effects on persons;

### **SECTION II. SPECIFIC SOURCE LIMITATIONS**

#### **A. ASH, TRASH, OR GARBAGE COLLECTION**

Ash, trash, or garbage collection which creates noise in residential sites shall be prohibited between 9 P.M. and 7 A.M. without prior written permission of the Department. Such permission shall be considered where there is strong evidence that traffic or other conditions require this action.

#### **B. Permitted Demonstrations on City Property**

No demonstration for which a permit has been obtained pursuant to the Office of the Managing Director’s “Regulation Governing Permits for Demonstrations On City Property” shall create or cause, or permit the creation of, sound through the use of any amplification that exceeds:

- (1) 10 decibels above background measured at the property boundary of the nearest occupied non-residential property;
- (2) 5 decibels above background measured at the property boundary of the nearest occupied residential property; or
- (3) 3 decibels above background measured at the property boundary of the nearest hospital, nursing home, house of worship, courthouse, school, library, or day care facility at any time.