

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Noise Related Regulations

Chapter 15.70 NOISE CONTROL

15.70.010 Short title of chapter.

This chapter may be known and cited as the Anchorage Noise Control Ordinance.

15.70.020 General provisions.

A. *Policy.* Whereas excessive sound and vibration are a serious hazard to public health and welfare and the quality of life, whereas a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound and vibration may be significantly abated, and whereas the people of the municipality have a right to an environment free from excessive sound and vibration that may jeopardize their health and welfare or degrade the quality of life, it is therefore the policy of the municipality to prevent excessive noise that may jeopardize the health or welfare of its citizens or degrade the quality of life.

B. *Exceptions.* The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of any emergency or the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work.

C. *Responsibility for violations involving motor vehicle.* It shall be a rebuttable presumption that the owner of a motor vehicle that violates or exceeds any provision of this chapter has caused or permitted the operation or driving of that motor vehicle.

D. *Sound level measurements.* It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or cause to be operated any source of sound in such a manner as to create a sound level that exceeds the equivalent sound level limits of specific decibel sound level limits set forth in this chapter when such equivalent sound level limits are measured at some other distance according to testing procedures established pursuant to section 15.70.040.B.1, except as otherwise required by federal law.

15.70.030 Definitions.

A. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

A-weighted sound level means the sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting network, the level of which so read is designated dB(A) or dBA.

Commercial area means any parcel of land zoned as B-1, B-2A, B-2B, B-2C, B-3 or B-4 under title 21.

Construction means any site preparation, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration or similar action for or of public or private rights-of-way, structures, utilities or similar property, but excludes demolition.

Construction season means the period from April 1 through October 31, both dates inclusive, of each year.

Decibel (dB) means a unit measure of sound level.

Demolition means any dismantling, intentional destruction or removal of structures, utilities, public or private right-of-way surfaces or similar property.

Emergency work means any work performed for the purpose of preventing or alleviating the physical trauma or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency.

TABLE 4. HAZARDOUS CONTINUOUS NOISE EMISSION LEVELS

<u>Sound Level Limit dB(A)</u>	<u>Duration</u>
90	24 hours
93	12 hours
96	6 hours
99	3 hours
102	1.5 hours
105	45 minutes
108	22 minutes

TABLE 5. HAZARDOUS IMPULSIVE NOISE EMISSION LEVELS

<u>Sound Level Limit</u>	<u>Number of Impulses dB(A) per 24-hour Period</u>
145	1
135	10
125	100

CHAPTER 17 ANIMALS

17.10.015 Animals creating disturbance or nuisance.

A. It shall be unlawful for any owner or custodian of a dog or cat to permit it to make chronic animal noise.

1. The animal care and control center may, upon receiving a complaint alleging chronic animal noise, issue a written notice to comply to the animal owner or custodian.

The notice shall contain:

- a. The definition of chronic animal noise.
- b. The nature and times of the complaint.
- c. Penalties for violation.
- d. Means and methods of curtailing chronic animal noise.
- e. Time permitted to comply with the notice.

2. If the violation continues after the time permitted by the notice to comply, a NOV may be issued in accordance with section 4 below.

3. An animal owner issued three or more NOV's within one year period may be required to forfeit an animal to the municipality, except as provided below. The chief animal control officer may elect to make the animal available for adoption to a person other than the owner, custodian, or person residing on the owner or custodian's premises.

- a. A forfeiture order shall not be sought against an owner who has taken verifiable steps to correct the problem prior to receipt of a third NOV within the one year period. Verifiable steps include, but are not limited to, debarking of the cited animal, acquisition and use of a barking control device, or structural modification of the

property where the animal is kept so as to reduce noise. To the extent that such efforts are not successful, the owner may be subject to additional citations and fines as provided in Chapter 17.70 .

4. NOV's for chronic animal noise shall only be issued after receipt of a. or b. below, and completion of an investigation by animal control:
 - a. A written statement to the animal care and control center, signed by two or more persons living at different addresses, both in the immediate neighborhood of the animal making the chronic animal noise, one of whom must be both the statement preparer and the original complainant; or
 - b. A written statement to the animal care and control center, signed by one person living in the immediate neighborhood of the chronic animal noise, where additional date and time specific evidence is provided.
- B. No owner or custodian of an animal shall permit the animal's feces to be left on public or other person's private property.
- C. No owner or custodian of an animal shall permit it to upset garbage on public or private property.