

expected, and (2) the abatement measures listed above are physically infeasible or economically unreasonable. In these instances, noise abatement measures other than those listed in § 772.13(c) of this chapter may be proposed for Types I and II projects by the highway agency and approved by the Regional Federal Highway Administrator on a case-by-case basis when the conditions of § 772.13(a) of this chapter have been met.

[47 FR 29654, July 8, 1982; 47 FR 33956, Aug. 5, 1982, as amended at 61 FR 45321, Aug. 29, 1996]

§ 772.15 Information for local officials.

In an effort to prevent future traffic noise impacts on currently undeveloped lands, highway agencies shall inform local officials within whose jurisdiction the highway project is located of the following:

- (a) The best estimation of future noise levels (for various distances from the highway improvement) for both developed and undeveloped lands or properties in the immediate vicinity of the project,
- (b) Information that may be useful to local communities to protect future land development from becoming incompatible with anticipated highway noise levels, and
- (c) Eligibility for Federal-aid participation for Type II projects as described in § 772.13(b) of this chapter.

§ 772.17 Traffic noise prediction.

(a) Any traffic noise prediction method is approved for use in any noise analysis required by this regulation if it generally meets the following two conditions:

(1) The methodology is consistent with the methodology in the FHWA Highway Traffic Noise Prediction Model (Report No. FHWA-RD-77-108).*

(2) The prediction method uses noise emission levels obtained from one of the following:

- (i) National Reference Energy Mean Emission Levels as a Function of Speed (appendix A).
- (ii) Determination of reference energy mean emission levels in Sound Procedures for Measuring Highway Noise: Final Report, DP-45-1R.*

(b) In predicting noise levels and assessing noise impacts, traffic characteristics which will yield the worst hourly traffic noise impact on a regular basis for the design year shall be used.

§ 772.19 Construction noise.

The following general steps are to be performed for all Types I and II projects:

- (a) Identify land uses or activities which may be affected by noise from construction of the project. The identification is to be performed during the project development studies.
- (b) Determine the measures which are needed in the plans and specifications to minimize or eliminate adverse construction noise impacts to the community. This determination shall include a weighing of the benefits achieved and the overall adverse social, economic and environmental effects and the costs of the abatement measures.
- (c) Incorporate the needed abatement measures in the plans and specifications.

TABLE 1—NOISE ABATEMENT CRITERIA
[Hourly A-Weighted Sound Level—decibels (dBA)*]

Activity Category	Leq(h)	L ₁₀ (h)	Description of activity category
A	57 (Exterior)	60 (Exterior)	Lands on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose.
B	67 (Exterior)	70 (Exterior)	Picnic areas, recreation areas, playgrounds, active sports areas, parks, residences, motels, hotels, schools, churches, libraries, and hospitals.
C	72 (Exterior)	75 (Exterior)	Developed lands, properties, or activities not included in Categories A or B above.

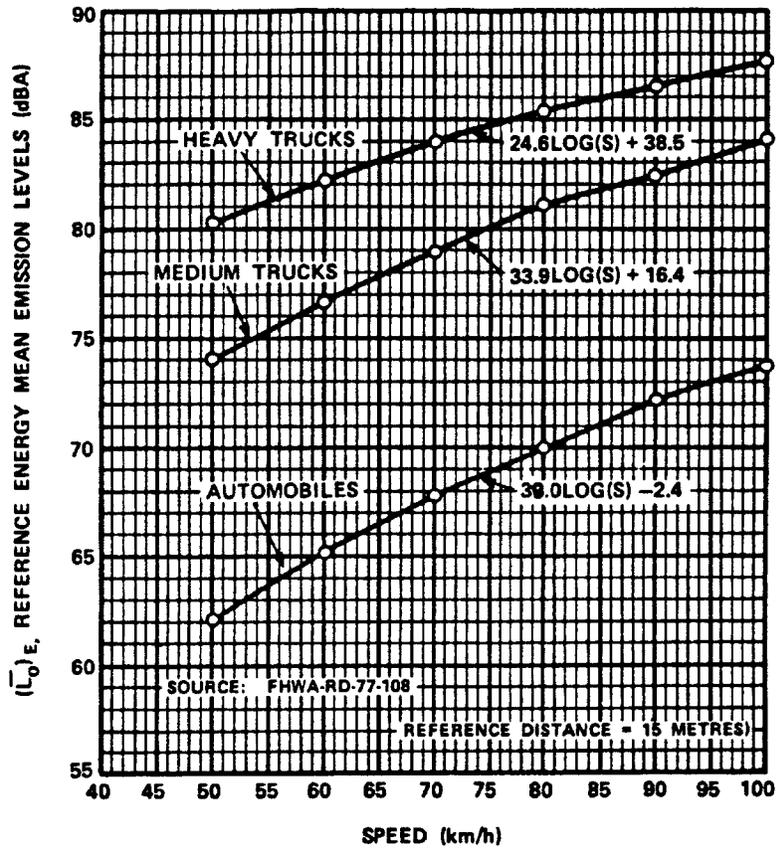
*These documents are available for inspection and copying as prescribed in 49 CFR part 7, appendix D.

TABLE 1—NOISE ABATEMENT CRITERIA—Continued
 [Hourly A-Weighted Sound Level—decibels (dBA)¹]

Activity Category	Leq(h)	L ₁₀ (h)	Description of activity category
D	Undeveloped lands.
E	52 (Interior)	55 (Interior)	Residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, and auditoriums.

¹ Either L₁₀(h) or Leq(h) (but not both) may be used on a project.

APPENDIX A TO PART 772—NATIONAL REFERENCE ENERGY MEAN EMISSION LEVELS AS A FUNCTION OF SPEED



LEGEND:

1. AUTOMOBILES: ALL VEHICLES WITH TWO AXLES AND FOUR WHEELS.
2. MEDIUM TRUCKS: ALL VEHICLES WITH TWO AXLES AND SIX WHEELS.
3. HEAVY TRUCKS: ALL VEHICLES WITH THREE OR MORE AXLES.

National Reference Energy Mean Emission Levels as a Function of Speed