

§ 325.3

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it is installed is stopped or is operating at a speed of 5 miles per hour (8 kph) or less, unless such device is intentionally operated at speeds greater than 5 mph (8 kph) in order to preclude an otherwise valid noise measurement. Examples of that type of auxiliary equipment include, but are not limited to, cranes, asphalt, spreaders, ditch diggers, liquid or slurry pumps, auxiliary air compressors, welders, and trash compactors.

§ 325.3 Effective date.

The rules in this part are effective on October 15, 1975.

§ 325.5 Definitions.

(a) *Statutory definitions.* All terms defined in the Noise Control Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-574, 86 Stat. 1234) are used as they are defined in that Act.

(b) *Definitions in standards.* All terms defined in §202.10 of the Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards, 40 CFR 202.10, are used as they are defined in that section.

(c) *Additional definitions.* (1) *Hard test site* means any test site having the ground surface covered with concrete, asphalt, packed dirt, gravel, or similar reflective material for more than ½ the distance between the microphone target point and the microphone location point.

(2) *Soft test site* means any test site having the ground surface covered with grass, other ground cover, or similar absorptive material for ½ or more of the distance between the microphone target point and the microphone location point.

(3) *Ground cover* means any of various low, dense-growing plants, such as ivy, myrtle, low weeds, or brush.

(4) *Traffic railing* means any longitudinal highway traffic barrier system installed along the side or median of a highway. For the purpose of this part, a traffic railing must have at least 35 percent of its vertical height, from the ground surface to the top of the railing, open to free space in order to qualify as an acceptable object within a noise measurement test site. Further, for the purposes of this part, posts or other discrete supports shall be ignored when ascertaining open free space.

(5) *Relatively flat* when used to describe a noise measurement site means a site which does not contain significant concave curvatures or slope reversals that may result in the focusing of sound waves toward the microphone location point.

§ 325.7 Allowable noise levels.

Motor vehicle noise emissions, when measured according to the rules of this part, shall not exceed the values specified in Table 1.

TABLE 1—MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE SOUND LEVEL READINGS (DECIBEL (A))¹, THNSP;²

	Highway operation test				Stationary tests	
	Soft site		Hard Site		Soft site	Hard site
	35 mi/h or less	Above 35 mi/h	35 mi/h or less	Above 35 mi/h		
If the distance between the microphone location point and the microphone target point is—						
31 ft (9.5m) or more but less than 35 ft (10.7m)	87	91	89	93	89	91
35 ft (10.7m) or more but less than 39 ft (11.9m)	86	90	88	92	88	90
39 ft (11.9m) or more but less than 43 ft (13.1m)	85	89	87	91	87	89
43 ft (13.1m) or more but less than 48 ft (14.6m)	84	88	86	90	86	88
48 ft (14.6m) or more but less than 58 ft (17.1m)	83	87	85	89	85	87
58 ft (17.1m) or more but less than 70 ft (21.3m)	82	86	84	88	84	86
70 ft (21.3m) or more but less than 83 ft (25.3m)	81	85	83	87	83	85

¹ The speeds shown refer to measurements taken at sites having speed limits as indicated. These speed limits do not necessarily have to be posted.

² This table is based on motor carrier noise emission requirements specified in 40 CFR 202.20 and 40 CFR 202.21.

[40 FR 42437, Sept. 12, 1975, as amended at 54 FR 50385, Dec. 6, 1989]

§ 325.9 Measurement tolerances.

(a) Measurement tolerances will be allowed to take into account the effects of the following factors:

(1) The consensus standard practice of reporting filed sound level measurements to the nearest whole decibel.

(2) Variations resulting from commercial instrument tolerances.

(3) Variations resulting from the topography of the noise measurement site.

(4) Variations resulting from atmospheric conditions such as wind, ambient temperature, and atmospheric pressure.

(5) Variations resulting from reflected sound from small objects allowed within the test site.

(6) The interpretation of the effects of the above cited factors by enforcement personnel.

(b) Measurement tolerances shall not exceed 2 decibels for a given measurement.

Subpart B—Administrative Provisions

§ 325.11 Issuance, amendment, and revocation of the rules in this part.

The procedures specified in part 389 of this chapter for the issuance, amendment, or revocation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply to rulemaking proceedings for the issuance, amendment, or revocation of the rules in this part.

§ 325.13 Inspection and examination of motor vehicles.

(a) Any special agent of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (designated in appendix B to subchapter B of this chapter) is authorized to inspect, examine, and test a motor vehicle operated by a motor carrier in accordance with the procedures specified in this part for the purpose of ascertaining whether the motor vehicle and equipment installed on the motor vehicle conforms to the Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards of the Environmental Protection Agency, 40 CFR part 202.

(b) A motor carrier, its officers, drivers, agents, and employees must, at any time, submit a motor vehicle used in its operations for inspection, examination, and testing for the purpose of ascertaining whether the motor vehicle and equipment installed on it conforms to the Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards of the Environmental Protection Agency, 40 CFR part 202.

(c) *Prescribed inspection report.* Form MCS-141, Noise Level Compliance Check shall be used to record findings from motor vehicles selected for noise emission inspection by authorized employees.

(d) *Motor carrier's disposition of form MCS-141.* (1) The driver of any motor vehicle receiving a Form MCS-141 shall deliver such MCS-141 to the motor carrier operating the vehicle upon his/her arrival at the next terminal or facility of the motor carrier, if such arrival occurs within twenty-four (24) hours. If the driver does not arrive at a terminal or facility of the motor carrier operating the vehicle within twenty-four (24) hours he/she shall immediately mail the Form MCS-141 to the motor carrier. For operating convenience, motor carriers may designate any shop, terminal, facility, or person to which it may instruct its drivers to deliver or forward Form MCS-141. It shall be the sole responsibility of the motor carrier that Form MCS-141 is returned to the Federal Highway Administration, in accordance with the terms prescribed thereon and in paragraphs (d) (2) and (3) of this section. A driver, if himself/herself a motor carrier, shall return Form MCS-141 to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, in accordance with the terms prescribed thereon and in paragraphs (d) (2) and (3) of this section.

(2) Motor carriers shall carefully examine Forms MCS-141. Appropriate corrective action shall be taken on vehicles found to be not in compliance with the requirements of this part.

(3) Motor carriers must complete the "Motor Carrier Certification of Action Taken" on Form MCS-141 in accordance with the terms prescribed thereon. Motor carriers must return Forms MCS-141 to the Division Office at the address indicated on Form MCS-141