

FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC)¹
Hourly A-Weighted Sound Level in Decibels (dB(A))

Activity Category	Activity Criteria ²		Evaluation Location	Activity Description
	Leq(h) ³	L10(h) ⁴		
A	57	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 ⁵	67	70	Exterior	Residential
C ⁵	67	70	Exterior	Active sport areas, amphitheaters, auditoriums, campgrounds, cemeteries, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, parks, picnic areas, places of worship, playgrounds, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, recreation areas, Section 4(f) sites, schools, television studios, trails, and trail crossings
D	52	55	Interior	Auditoriums, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, places of worship, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, schools, and television studios
E ⁵	72	75	Exterior	Hotels, motels, offices, restaurants/bars, and other developed lands, properties or activities not included in A-D or F.
F	----	----	----	Agriculture, airports, bus yards, emergency services, industrial, logging, maintenance facilities, manufacturing, mining, rail yards, retail facilities, shipyards, utilities (water resources, water treatment, electrical), and warehousing
G	----	----	----	Undeveloped lands that are not permitted

¹ MDOT identifies a significant noise impact as a 10 dBA increase between the existing and predicted sound levels, or a measured or modeled noise level 1 dBA less than the NAC standard

² Either Leq(h) or L10(h) (but not both) may be used on a project. MDOT uses Leq(h). The Leq(h) and L10(h) Activity Criteria values are for impact determination only, and are not design standards for noise abatement measures.

³ Leq is the equivalent steady-state sound level which in a stated period of time contains the same acoustic energy as the time-varying sound level during the same time period, with Leq(h) being the hourly value of Leq.

⁴ L10 is the sound level that is exceeded 10 percent of the time (90th percentile) for the period under consideration, with L10 being the hourly value of L10.

⁵ Includes undeveloped lands permitted for this activity category