

INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR CONTROL OF NOISE FROM INDUSTRY IN COUNTRY VICTORIA



N3/89

18 April 1989

Application

1. These guidelines should be applied to industries in areas outside Metropolitan Melbourne. In some cases existing industries in rural areas may not be able to comply with these requirements. In these cases staged reductions may be appropriate and may be related to developments in noise control technology which shall be reviewed periodically.

Noise Limits

2. Noise limits in provincial cities and rural areas where background sound levels are comparable to Metropolitan Melbourne shall be determined using the procedures of State Environment Protection Policy N-1.

3. Where background sound levels are very low (ie. less than 25 dB(A) at night or 30 dB(A) during the day or evening period) the minimum limits for noise from industry should be:

| Day | Evening | Night |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 45 dB(A) | 37 dB(A) | 32 dB(A) |

(Measured at residential premises)

4. During construction of an industry the daytime limit shall be raised by 10 dB(A) except where this would result in a limit greater than 68 dB(A). In this case the daytime construction noise limit shall be 68 dB(A). Limits for other time periods shall be the same as those set for the ongoing industrial operation.

5. Activities related to the construction of noise control features may be exempted from the noise limits.

Measurement

6. Measurements of industry or background noise levels should be carried out in general accordance with the procedures laid down by SEPP No. N-1 and the 'Guide to the Measurement and Analysis of Noise' accompanying the policy.

Notes

(I) *Planning* - the propagation of sound in a rural environment is strongly influenced by atmospheric conditions. There will be occasions, particularly at night when propagation is enhanced by wind or temperature inversion and noise levels at a measurement point are elevated despite careful plant design. Thus new industries should be encouraged to design for the lowest levels of noise achievable with commonly available technology. Where possible designers should aim to meet octave band levels of L_{bg} plus 5~ 10dB.

The approach adopted in these guidelines will not avoid some change in the acoustic environment. The strategy is intended to provide reasonable protection in a situation of land use change but there may be some rural areas where such change is inappropriate. When in the opinion of the Authority a particularly quiet area should be preserved it may establish more stringent limits or to oppose the proposal at the outset.

(ii) *Qualification* - These guidelines are considered to be provisional in nature as the available information on the effects of noise in rural communities is limited. It should also be noted that this document will be superseded should a State Environment Protection Policy be published dealing with noise from industry in country Victoria.