

Amplifier devices

An amplifier device includes loud-hailers, megaphones, public address systems, remote telephone bells and telephone repeater bells. Noise from amplifier devices can disturb people, disrupt their sleep and interfere with their work or normal daily activities. If loud enough, it can impact on their health.



This fact sheet includes information that can help people to reduce noise emissions and meet legal requirements. For stereo and radio noise, contact your local Police.

Be a good neighbour

Before installing equipment that emits noise, take the time to talk to neighbours and other building occupants to find out their concerns and to resolve any problems. In many cases, an agreement can be reached that satisfies everyone's needs.

The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act* includes noise limits for amplifier devices and Council of the City of Gold Coast (Council) is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and complaints continue, an investigation will be carried out.

If an amplifier device exceeds noise limits, Council may issue an on-the-spot fine to the value of 15 penalty units (for an individual) or 75 penalty units (for a corporation). See the City website for information about penalty unit values.

Allowable noise limits

If noise from an amplifier device can be clearly heard at a neighbouring premises during the following hours, the owner or operator of the device may be issued with an on-the-spot fine:

- 10pm – 7am on a business day.
- 6pm – 8am on any other day.

On-the-spot fines may also be issued when noise from an amplifier device is greater than 10 decibels above the background noise level between:

- 7am – 10pm on a business day.
- 8am – 6pm on any other day.

The background noise level is the ambient noise level measured in the absence of the source noise being investigated. It can vary throughout the day and night.

Ways you can reduce noise

A range of measures can be used to reduce the noise impact of an amplifier device. These include:

Limiting hours of use

Talk to neighbours and other building occupants to find out if there are particular times when the noise disturbs them. People are often concerned about operation at night or early morning, when they are trying to sleep.

Selecting a quieter alternative

Alternatives may be available that are quieter and do not disturb neighbours. For example, telephone repeater bells can be replaced with visual alarms (e.g. flashing lights) or a personal pager to alert the receiver of a call.

Location

Locating amplifier devices as far away as possible from neighbours and sensitive areas (e.g. bedroom windows, offices) may reduce their impact.

Fences or barriers

A solid fence may help to reduce noise levels. If the fence has gaps, it will not be as effective.

For more information

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