

Subpart G—Environmental Noise Abatement

GENERAL

§ 650.161 Purpose.

The provisions contained in this chapter implement the provisions of the Noise Control Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92–574) and Federal Regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act, including Executive Order 11752, Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-106, and EPA procedures for Reporting Proposed Pollution Abatement Projects For Federal Facilities.

§ 650.162 Goal and objectives.

The Department of the Army (DA) goal is to control noise produced by Army activities to protect the health and welfare of its members and the public within, adjacent to, and surrounding Army installations. The following objectives are necessary to achieve this goal:

- (a) Assess the environmental impact of noise produced by Army activities and mitigate harmful or objectionable effects to the maximum extent practicable.
- (b) Comply with applicable Federal, State, interstate and local standards pertaining to noise, consistent with military requirements.
- (c) Achieve noise abatement through the application of engineering noise reduction procedures, administrative noise control measures, modern land use planning and procurement of less noisy equipment.
- (d) Incorporate noise control provisions, consistent with national security requirements, into the development and procurement of weapons systems and other military equipment for use in combat operations; and in the design and siting of facilities.

§ 650.163 Explanation of terms.

(a) *Administrative noise control measures.* Policy decisions and administrative actions taken to regulate the conduct of training, operations and activities for the purpose of relocating, re-scheduling, or restricting activity to abate or control noise; e.g., decisions on the time of day, site, and number of

operations, firing schedules, flight patterns, etc.

(b) *Ambient noise.* The all encompassing noise associated with a given environment, usually composite of sounds from many sources.

(c) *Decibel (dB).* Unit of measure indicating the sound pressure level of a measured sound. dBA indicates that the sound level is measured through the A-weighting network of a sound level meter.

(d) *Engineering noise reduction.* Control of noise at the source, path or receptor site through use of acoustical engineering techniques. Among other techniques, this involves enclosures, absorbent materials, and barriers.

(e) *Environmental noise.* The intensity, duration, and character of sounds from all sources.

(f) *Impulsive noise (also referred to as impulse or impact noise).* Noise with abrupt onset, high intensity, short duration—typically less than one second. This type of noise can be produced by weapons fire, explosions, punch presses, and drop hammers, and consists of a short burst of acoustical energy of either a single impulse or a series of impulses.

(g) *Land use planning.* That aspect of master planning wherein the best possible use is made of available land areas by considering, among other factors, mission and environmental protection requirements.

(h) *Noise control management.* The abatement of noise through use of low-noise-emission products, engineering noise reduction, or administrative noise control measures.

(i) *Noise pollution control standards.* Noise emission standards for products adopted in accordance with provisions of the Noise Control Act of 1972 or provisions of State, interstate, and local standards for control and abatement of environmental noise.

§ 650.164 Policies.

The Department of the Army will—

- (a) Comply with all DOD and applicable Federal, State and local noise control standards promulgated pursuant to the Noise Control Act in the planning, siting, design, construction and operation of Army controlled facilities

and installations. The aim is to promote an environment for all people free from noise that jeopardizes their health and welfare.

(b) Procure commercial equipment and products, or those adapted for military use, that are in compliance with established Federal noise standards and give priority to use of low-noise-emission products within reasonable cost and mission limitations.

(c) Incorporate noise control provisions in the design and procurement of vehicles, aircraft, weapons systems and other military-unique equipment for use in combat operations to the extent that essential operational capabilities are not significantly impaired.

(d) Include the impact of environmental noise in any assessment of an Army action or program.

(e) Institute measures to reduce and/or control the generation of noise from flying and flying-related activities and comply with DOD Instruction 4165.57 on Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ).

(f) Periodically monitor Army installations and their environs to insure that applicable Federal, State, interstate and local noise standards are met.

§ 650.165 Responsibilities.

(a) Department of the Army Staff.

(1) The Chief of Engineers will—(i) Promulgate basic policies, guidance and regulations for the control of environmental noise produced by military equipment (aircraft, vehicles, etc.), and that resulting from the conduct of various types of military training activities (DAEN-ZCE).

(ii) Monitor the structural engineering aspects of the environmental noise pollution control program to assure that facilities on Army real property satisfies established noise control standards (DAEN-MC).

(iii) Provide guidelines and assistance for the selection of architectural and engineering measures to be employed, to control noise levels in conjunction with installation master planning or the siting of new facilities (e.g., siting considerations, noise barriers or berms, operational controls, and sound attenuation in new and existing structures) (DAEN-MC).

(iv) Coordinate noise abatement criteria, standards, policies, and corrective measures with The Surgeon General, and The Inspector General and Auditor General, (Army Director of Safety).

(v) Incorporate noise attenuation measures in the design and construction of new structures and provide technical assistance on noise attenuation techniques for existing structures (DAEN-MC).

(2) The Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans will—(i) Monitor operations and activities to assure control of noise produced by military equipment, aircraft, and vehicles, resulting from the conduct of various types of military training activities.

(ii) Ensure compliance with appropriate noise standards during test and evaluation of Army material and during operational testing.

(3) The Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition will—(i) Monitor compliance with applicable noise control standards during the development and testing of new material.

(ii) Process and staff requests for exemptions (§650.175) for military unique equipment where essential operational characteristics are significantly impaired by adherence to applicable noise standards, and where the equipment is deemed essential to mission accomplishment.

(4) The Surgeon General will—(i) Monitor health and welfare aspects of environmental noise within the Department of the Army to assure that the required degree of noise control is maintained.

(ii) Issue health and medical policy guidance obtained from liaison with other Federal agencies assigned responsibility for environmental noise control.

(iii) Coordinate in the development of noise abatement criteria, standards and corrective measures with the Chief of Engineers and when appropriate with Director of Safety, HQDA.

(b) Commanding General, US Army Health Services Command will—

(1) Accumulate, evaluate, and disseminate data on environmental noise conditions that may adversely affect the health of men and animals.