

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY**

**CHAPTER 1660-02-09  
RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING NOISE LEVEL STANDARDS**

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**1660-02-09-.01 NOISE LEVEL STANDARDS.**

- (1) No person shall operate any vessel in or upon the waters of Tennessee in such a manner so that the total noise produced by the watercraft exceeds 86 dBA at a distance of 50 feet or more, whether or not said vessel is in motion.
  - (a) Measurements shall be made with a Type I or Type II sound level meter which meets the requirements of the American National Standards Institute SI.4-1971.
  - (b) Measurements shall be taken at a minimum distance of 50 feet, and in so far as practical, be taken at an angle approximately perpendicular to the vessel in question.
  - (c) A test course, if used in testing, shall consist of an approximately straight course 50 yards in length through which the vessel in question shall operate at full throttle; measurements shall be made at a minimum distance of 50 feet and at an angle approximately perpendicular to the vessel near the center of the course.
  - (d) Any duly commissioned officer of the Wildlife Resources Agency with a reason to suspect that a vessel is exceeding the noise limitation may require the vessel operator to transverse a noise emission test course as set forth herein.
  - (e) Any person who fails to comply with the directive to transverse the test course shall be subject to prosecution under T.C.A. § 69-9-301 et seq. and/or at the discretion of the officer, the vessel shall be ordered to immediately return to its mooring and cease operations.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 69-9-302 and 70-1-206. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 11, 1981; effective July 27, 1981. Amendment filed January 13, 2017; effective April 13, 2017.