

**Chapter 96  
NOISE CONTROL**

**Section**

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C. Audio or visual equipment, includes, but is not limited to compact disc players, phonographs, radios, stereo systems, tape players, tape recorders, televisions, and video cassette recorders;

D. Domestic tools, such as chain saws, electric drills, electric saws, hammers, lawn mowers, leaf/snow blowers, and similar tools;

E. Loudspeakers or public address systems;

F. Motor vehicle engines, exhaust systems or tires, other than regular traffic on a highway, road or street;

G. Musical Instruments;

H. Parties;

I. Domestic Animals;

J. Spoken speech.

(Ord. 99-07, passed 10-20-99)

**§96.01 TITLE.**

This chapter may be referred to as the Noise Control Ordinance. (Ord. 99-07, passed 10-20-99)

**§96.02 DEFINITIONS.**

The following definitions shall apply to this chapter.

**NOISE SENSITIVE UNIT.** Property normally used for sleeping, or, when in use, schools, churches, hospitals, public parks or public libraries. Property used in industrial or agricultural activity is not a noise sensitive unit unless it also meets the above criteria in more than an incidental manner.

**PLAINLY AUDIBLE SOUND.** Unambiguously communicated sound that is spoken speech, music, or mechanical or electronic noise.

**SOUND PRODUCING SOURCE.** Anything that is capable of making sound that can be measured by a sound level meter as provided by this chapter. Includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A. Air conditioning or heating units, heat pumps, refrigeration units (including those mounted on motor vehicles), and swimming pool or hot tub pumps;

B. Air horns, bells, or sirens;

**§96.03 PROHIBITIONS.**

Within the jurisdiction of the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, no person or entity may produce or permit to be produced, with a Sound Producing Source, sound that:

A. When measured at or within the boundary of property on which a Noise Sensitive Unit is located (not the unit that is source of the sound unless the unit is a public park):

(1) Exceeds 50 dBA at any time between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.; or

(2) Exceeds 60 dBA at any time between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; or

(3) Is Plainly Audible at any time between the hours 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at a distance of at least 100 feet from the source of the sound.

B. Is Plainly Audible at any time between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.:

(1) Within a Noise Sensitive Unit that is not the source of the sound; or

(2) On a County Road or Public Road right-of-way at a distance of at least 50 feet from

the source of the sound.  
(Ord. 99-07, passed 10-20-99)

**§96.04 EXCEPTIONS.**

The following are exceptions to the prohibitions contained in this chapter.

A. Sound caused by organized athletic or other group activities, when such activities are conducted on property generally used for such purposes, such as stadiums, fairgrounds, schools, churches and athletic fields.

B. Sound caused by emergency work, or by the ordinary and accepted use of emergency equipment, motor vehicles, and apparatus, regardless of the location or entity performing work.

C. Sound caused by bona fide use of emergency warning devices and alarm systems.

D. Sound caused as the result of unplanned and unanticipated personal accidents or emergencies.

E. Sound regulated by federal law, including, not limited to, sound caused by railroad, aircraft or commercially licensed watercraft operations.

F. Sound caused by blasting activities when performed under a permit issued by the appropriate governmental authorities and only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding weekends.

G. Sound caused by industrial, agricultural, commercial or construction activities.

H. Sound caused by regular vehicular traffic on a Public or County Road, parking lot, or other premises open to the general public for the use of motor vehicles, regardless of ownership or use fee charge.

I. Sound caused by domestic tools between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
(Ord. 99-07, passed 10-20-99)

**§96.05 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**

1. The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced under the procedure set out in Chapter 38 of the Umatilla County Code of Ordinances.

2. No written warning shall be necessary prior to the issuance of a citation.

3. For purposes of this chapter, a continuing violation shall be sound that occurs at least once beyond a 24 hour period.  
(Ord. 99-07, passed 10-20-99)