



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Transport**

## **CP-104B**

**Vehicle Safety and Standards  
Code of Practice  
(Updated March 2018)**

### **CP- Authorised Noise Assessors Handbook**

**Noise Assessors Scheme for Road Vehicles**

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## 1. Overview

All individually constructed vehicles and most modified vehicles must receive approval from the Department of Transport (DoT) Vehicle Safety. This process ensures that these vehicles have been built or modified to acceptable vehicle safety and environmental standards. In many instances Vehicle Safety needs evidence from other sources confirming that the vehicle does in fact meet certain requirements. This is the case for noise level determination.

To assist in the noise assessment process in order to satisfy requirements for licensing or the removal of a work order, independent assessors will be approved under the Noise Level Assessors Scheme. This will allow noise measurements to be executed by qualified persons. The vehicle owner will be liable for costs.

In essence, the scheme has been set up to recognise businesses which meet certain standards to perform noise measurement tests in accordance with the applicable the [Road Traffic \(Vehicles\) Regulations 2014](#). These businesses will be known as Authorised Noise Level Assessors.

Authorised Noise Level Assessors will be responsible for determining the sites for conducting the tests. These decisions shall be made after taking into consideration, as a minimum, the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act* and its Regulations, Local Government requirements.

Each business approved as an Authorised Noise Level Assessor will nominate experienced officers who will be referred to as Authorised Noise Level Officers. These officers must have the necessary expertise and training to conduct the tests to the standards required. An Authorised Noise Level Assessor can nominate as many officers as they wish provided those nominated have the required credentials.

***In all cases the final responsibility for assessments undertaken will lie with the Authorised Noise Level Assessor.***

## 2. Scheme

This Scheme applies to all vehicles, which are required to comply with the noise levels specified in the [Road Traffic \(Vehicles\) Regulations 2014](#).

These regulations embody the in-service acoustic requirements set out in the national regulations, the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules .

Approval under this scheme is restricted to the application of the 'Stationary Test' as stipulated in the [National Stationary Exhaust Noise Test Procedures for In-Service Vehicles](#).

Vehicles which may need noise level assessments include:

- one of a kind or individually constructed vehicles;
- vehicles which are subject to a modification permit;
- vehicles which have received a work order for excessive noise from either a Vehicle Examiner, an Authorised Vehicle Examiner or a Police officer;
- imported vehicles which fall outside of the import restrictions applicable under the *Federal Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (FMVSA); and
- any other vehicle on application to register or requiring periodic examination.

The role of the Approved Noise Level Assessor is to determine the noise levels emitted by the vehicle using procedures for the relevant stationary test. The assessor does not have any obligation under this scheme to become involved in design or inspection of any vehicle components.

Note:

#### **Certification procedures under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act***

This scheme does not give authority to persons or organisations to perform noise tests to demonstrate compliance with the Australian Design Rules under the *Federal Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* or any certification scheme under that Act.

Low and High Volume Certification of vehicles is administered by the [Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities](#). Queries concerning certification procedures should be directed to that office.

### **3. Prescribed test procedures**

Noise level measurements shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations applicable to the vehicles date of manufacture and category.

The tests must be conducted in accordance with the test procedures specified in the National Road Transport Commission's [National Stationary Exhaust Noise Test Procedures for In-Service Vehicles](#).

### **4. Responsibilities under the scheme**

#### **Noise Level Assessment**

The Authorised Noise Level Assessor has the final responsibility for making sure that each report conforms to all the requirements of this scheme. This includes making sure that:

- the measurements are carried out by suitably qualified people, according to sound engineering measurement practice;
- all documentation is completed as shown in the relevant sections of this handbook; and
- records are kept of all reports for a minimum period of (24) months from the date of issue of each report. Whilst this information will not normally be required by this Agency, this information is subject to audit by DoT staff.

#### **Nomination of Authorised Noise Level Officers**

Under this scheme, Authorised Noise Level Assessors can nominate as many officers as they wish provided those nominated have the necessary expertise and training to conduct the tests to the required standards.

It is the Authorised Noise Level Assessor's responsibility to:

- set the selection standards for appointing Authorised Noise Level Officers;
- appoint Authorised Noise Level Officers; and
- keep a continuous chronological record of Authorised Noise Level Officers for a period of at least two (2) years. Whilst this information will not normally be required by this Agency, this information is subject to audit by DoT staff.

#### **Audits**

Authorised Noise Level Assessors must be prepared to allow their records to be audited by DoT staff.

### **Sub-contracted work**

This scheme allows the Authorised Noise Level Assessor to employ a subcontractor to carry out the measurement tests, however the subcontractor must also be an Authorised Noise Level Assessor under this scheme.

Depending on the contractual arrangements between the parties concerned, the report may be signed by either one of the parties.

## **5. Certification procedure**

It is important that the Assessors carry out their part of the work in a responsible manner.

Typically a vehicle will require assessment following the issue of a work order or a request for an assessment, from either a Technical Officer or a Vehicle Examiner, prior to the issue of a modification permit (or the removal of a work order).

After the assessment has been carried out, the vehicle owner needs, within a reasonable time, to present the vehicle and the associated Noise Level Record (NLR) to a Department of Transport Authorised Inspection Station (AIS) or Technical Officer.

When checking vehicle noise emissions the procedure below shall be followed:

- Noise level measurements shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant regulations.
- Allowable noise level limits shall be obtained from the [Road Traffic \(Vehicles\) Regulations 2014](#)
- The noise levels emitted by the vehicle shall be measured and the result recorded on the Noise Level Record (NLR) form.
- The assessor shall make 3 copies of the NLR.
- One copy of the NLR shall be issued to the vehicle owner for his records.
- One copy of the NLR shall be given to the owner or driver so that it can be passed onto the Vehicle Examiner at the time of inspection.
- One copy of the NLR shall be retained by the Authorised Noise Level Assessor.

Note:

Authorised Noise Level Assessors are required to keep records of all reports issued for a period of (24) months from the date of issue of the report. These records should include all data recorded (e.g. calibration data, ambient noise level) and be sufficiently comprehensive to prove that the test was done in accordance with the Prescribed Test Procedures.

It is the responsibility of the owner to make sure the vehicle is taken to a Vehicle Examination Centre for final approval. The Authorised Noise Level Assessor must advise the owner of his or her obligation to take the vehicle to an Authorised Inspection Station

## **6. Application to become an Authorised Noise Level Assessor**

Any company or organisation throughout Western Australia, with extensive experience or engineering knowledge in noise level assessment, may apply to become an Authorised Noise Level Assessor. The person submitting the application will be known as a signatory for that organisation and will be responsible for the noise measurements made by Authorised Noise Level Officers.

The nomination should be made on the prescribed application form (refer APPENDIX A). Applicants should supply accurate details of the:

- company or organisation;
- person submitting the application and responsible as the signatory;
- extent of experience/knowledge that the company or organisation has in performing the measurements required; and
- address of the premises where the measurements may be performed.

To become an Authorised Noise Level Assessor, an applicant must be able to demonstrate access to suitable premises and equipment for carrying out the measurements in question. As part of the certification process, Vehicle Safety will inspect the intended premises and equipment.

It is important to note that the Authorised Noise Level Assessor has the final responsibility for making sure that each measurement and subsequent report conforms to all the requirements of this Authorised Assessors Handbook. This responsibility includes ensuring that:

- the assessment is carried out by appropriately qualified people, according to sound engineering measurement practice;
- all measuring equipment used is well maintained and currently calibrated;
- all documentation is completed as detailed in the relevant sections of this handbook;
- records are kept of all reports for a period of 24 months from the date of issue of each report; and
- the Authorised Noise Level Officer completes the prescribed Certification Procedure, as detailed in Section 5 of this handbook.

## 7. Application to become an Authorised Noise Level Officer

Any signatory representing an Authorised Noise Level Assessor or an applicant to become an Authorised Noise Level Assessor must nominate a person or persons for appointment as an Authorised Noise Level Officer/s.

The nomination should be made on the prescribed application form (refer to APPENDIX A). Applicants should supply accurate details of:

- personal particulars;
- employers particulars;
- details of the applicants' qualifications; and
- the extent of experience/knowledge that they have in performing the measurements required.

Note:

Credentials acceptable to the DoT Vehicle Safety, must support nominee applications. The DoT may reject applications or request further evidence if there is any doubt of the credentials of a particular officer.

It is possible for an authorised Noise Level Officer to also be the signatory for the Authorised Noise Level Assessor, such as, in a small company they may often be the same person.

## 8. Further Information

### Correspondence and enquiries

**Vehicle Safety and Standards Section**  
Department of Transport  
34 Gillam Drive  
Kelmscott WA 6111

For enquiries contact DoT  
on 13 11 56

## 9. Appendix A - Forms

### ***Authorised Noise Level Assessor /Officer Application form***



Authorised Noise  
Level Assessor Officer

### ***Noise Level Record form***



Noise level  
Record.pdf