Manufacturers of motorized equipment intended for use outdoors and destined for the European market must comply with the EC Noise Directive 2000/14/EC.


Directive 2000/14/EC was implemented in two stages. Stage I permissible sound power levels became effective on January 3, 2002, and Stage II levels took effect January 3, 2006.

Prepare for the EC Noise Directive
This Directive affects a greater variety of equipment than its predecessors, including products that previously were not subject to sound power level limits, lowering the permissible sound power level of all machinery designed for outdoor use.

The Directive specifies in Article 12, equipment that must utilize a Notified Body to obtain certification. A manufacturer shall subject their equipment to one of the following conformity assessment procedures, which require the involvement of a Notified Body:

- Annex VI: requires a Notified Body to review the technical documentation gathered by the manufacturer. Periodic checks during the production phase are required.
- Annex VII: requires a Notified Body to examine and test every single unit, resulting in an individual certificate of conformity.
- Annex VIII: requires the manufacturer to operate an effective “Full Quality Assurance” system that is audited on a regular basis for compliance with the requirements of the Directive.
Equipment not subject to sound power level limitation is listed in Article 13, where a Notified Body can act as a third party for measurement or as a consultant - providing needed expertise.

Important Facts about the Noise Directive:

- Manufacturers must comply with Stage II noise emission levels, which became effective on January 3, 2006.
- A working group set up by the Commission has concluded that a number of Stage II limits were not "technically feasible." Directive 2005/88/EC, amending Directive 2000/14/EC, was adopted on December 14, 2005. The main objective of Directive 2005/88/EC is to exclude certain types of equipment from Stage II requirements, therefore allowing this equipment to be legally placed on the market as of January 3, 2006.
- Article 14 of the Directive lists the procedures that lead to the determination of conformity to the Directive. These procedures cover internal control of production (Annex V), internal control of production with assessment of the technical documentation and periodic checking (Annex VI), unit verification (Annex VII), and full quality assurance (Annex VIII).
- Annex V allows manufacturers of equipment referred to in Article 13 to self-certify their product.
- Manufacturers of equipment referred to in Article 12 have the choice between Annexes VI, VII, and VIII, all requiring the involvement of a Notified Body.

All equipment outlined in the Noise Directive must bear the CE Marking to demonstrate compliance to the Directive. European Union member states must allow equipment bearing the CE Marking to enter their markets.

TÜV SÜD America Inc., Industry Service division, provides 2000/14/EC Notified Body services on behalf of its parent company, TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH.

Contact us for more information on how this Directive affects your products, how to satisfy the requirements of the Directive or to select the Annex most suitable for your organization.

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