

**Translation from Finnish
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish
Ministry of the Environment, Finland**

Government Decree on guide values for the outdoor noise level of wind turbines
(1107/2015)

(By virtue of section 142 of the Environmental Protection Act (527/2014):)

Section 1

Scope

- (1) This decree lays down the guide values for outdoor noise level necessary to prevent health hazards caused by the noise of wind turbines and other significant environmental pollution referred to in section 5(1)(2) of the Environmental Protection Act (527/2014) caused by the noise of wind turbines.
- (2) This act applies to land use and building planning, permit procedures and control under the Land Use and Building Act (132/1999) and permit procedure and supervision under the Environmental Protection Act.

Section 2

Definitions

In this Decree:

- 1) *declared noise emission value* means the guarantee value of the same type of wind turbine declared by the equipment manufacturer that takes account of the uncertainty due to the dispersion of the noise emission;
- 2) *permanent residence* means a building intended for year-round residence and its yard and outdoor premises ;
- 3) *holiday residence* means a building intended for free-time residence and its yard and outdoor premises;
- 4) *recreation area* means areas in public recreational use, areas designated for public recreational use in a legally binding plan under the Land Use and Building Act, and nature conservation areas that are particularly important for public recreational use;
- 5) *camping area* means an area referred to in section 18 of the Outdoor Recreation Act (606/1973);
- 6) *impulsive noise* means noise that contains repeated sounds of short duration in the area exposed to the noise that can be distinguished auditorily and by measurement and that increases the harm caused by the noise;
- 7) *narrow-band noise* means noise that contains repeated pure tones or narrow-band or tonal components in the area exposed to the noise that can be distinguished auditorily and by measurement and that increases the harm caused by the noise.

Section 3

Guide values outdoors

The calculated outdoor noise level caused by the operation of the wind turbine determined on the basis of the declared value of the noise emission and noise level measured in connection with control may not exceed the guide values of the average A-weighted sound level of the noise (equivalent continuous sound level L_{Aeq}) in the area exposed to the noise as follows:

	outdoor noise level L_{Aeq} daytime at 7—22	outdoor noise level L_{Aeq} night time at 22—7
permanent residence	45 dB	40 dB
holiday residence	45 dB	40 dB
care institutions	45 dB	40 dB
education institutions	45 dB	—
recreation areas	45 dB	—
camping areas	45 dB	40 dB
national parks	40 dB	40 dB

Section 4

Indoor noise

Provisions on the indoor noise levels to be taken into account when planning and organising activities that impact on the living environment and in practising such activities are laid down in the Health Protection Act (763/1994) and provisions issued under it.

Section 5

Adjustment to be made to the result of measurement

If the noise of a wind turbine is of impulsive or narrow-band character in the area exposed to the noise, 5 dB is added to the result of measurement obtained in connection with control before it is compared to the values laid down in section 3.

Section 6

Entry into force

- (1) This decree enters into force on 1 September 2015.
- (2) This act decree shall not apply to a wind turbine that has a legally valid environmental permit under the Environmental Protection Act or the Environmental Protection Act repealed by that act (86/2000; hereinafter referred to as the repealed Environmental Protection Act), or to a legally valid building permit under the Land Use and Building Act upon the entry into force of this decree.
- (3) However, if an environmental permit granted to a wind turbine before the entry into force of this decree needs to be amended in a way referred to in the Environmental Protection Act after the entry into force of this decree, this decree shall apply. This decree shall also apply when considering, under section 27(2)(3) of the Environmental Protection Act, the need for an environmental permit of a wind turbine operating on the grounds of a building permit.
- (4) This decree shall not apply if the plan has been or is being made available to the public as a proposal for a plan under the Land Use and Building Act upon the entry into force of this decree, or to a permit matter under that act that is pending upon the entry into force of this decree.
- (5) This decree shall not apply when considering an application for an environmental permit under the Environmental Protection Act or the repealed Environmental Protection Act that is pending and a public notice has been provided on it upon the entry into force of this decree. However, if an appellate court repeals a permit decision under the Environmental Protection Act or the repealed Environmental Protection Act to which this decree does not apply and refers the matter as a whole back for reconsideration, the matter shall be considered and resolved in accordance with the provisions of this decree.