



FIVA

We Protect

We Preserve

We Promote

Position paper:

Vehicle noise and limitations

November 2021

Rules and legislation on vehicle noise:

In many nations vehicles has to comply to legislative rules on vehicle noise. Aspects of noise created are often enforced during vehicle roadworthiness testing. On more modern vehicles this noise characteristics are incorporated into the type approval and some nations shows this within their registration papers.

The vehicle noise is typically generated from four different sources:

- Exhaust
- Engine
- Air Intake
- Tyres

The vehicle noise is all these sources put together and especially for air cooled motorcycles engine noise and intake noise can contribute significantly to the total vehicle noise level whereas on modern motorcycles exhaust noise could be a more dominant factor.

General overall vehicle noise increases with engine speed.

Noise is of particular concern in urban environments where the surrounding built environment reflects sound

Modern Circumstances:

Modern vehicles and particular those with electric motors are in becoming increasingly quieter which can lead to the impression that older vehicles are getting noisier.

Historic vehicles were not built to modern standards, which were often not even in consideration when the vehicle were built. Some older vehicles, and particular high performance historic vehicles, may emit greater, or more easily detectable, engine intake and exhaust noise than now common. However, by no means all historic vehicles are large emitters of noise.

A few amount of historic vehicles travel at speeds which create substantial tyre noise from uncovered wheels.

The historic vehicle community is not generally a large emitter of noise, or source of noise pollution. Historic vehicles travel rarely, for short distances and rarely in crowded urban environments during congestion periods.

Through the "FIVA Guide for Responsible Use of Historic Vehicles on Today's Roads" FIVA recommends that:

- Historic vehicles should be kept in a well-maintained state, which serves to keep their individual noise creation to a minimum, and
- Historic vehicles should be driven in a responsible and considerate manner.

FIVA does not approve the creation of vehicle noise to a greater extent than is necessary and is not responsible for certain behaviours in gatherings of the owners of some more modern vehicles.

It is FIVA's goal that historic vehicles may continue to be used to demonstrate our cultural heritage, including the sounds particular to that heritage to current and future generations, provided that these vehicles are being used in the most efficient, responsible and least pollution manner possible.