

Appendix C

Decibel Scale of Common Sounds

EXAMPLE NOISE LEVELS IN DECIBELS

Noise Source	Decibel Level	Noise Effect
Jet takeoff (25 M)	150	Eardrum rupture
Aircraft carrier deck	140	Earphones at high level
Jet takeoff (100 M)	130	
Thunderclap, live rock music,	120	Human pain threshold
Chain Saw	110	
Steel Mill, Riveting, auto horn at 1 M		
Jet takeoff (305 M), outboard motor, power lawn mower, motorcycle, farm tractor, jackhammer, garbage truck	100	Serious hearing damage (8 hrs)
Busy urban street, diesel truck, food blender	90	Hearing damage (8 hrs)
Garbage disposal, dishwasher, average factory, freight train (15 M)	80	Possible hearing damage
Freeway traffic at 15 M, vacuum cleaner	70	Annoying
Conversation in restaurant, office, background music	60	
Quiet suburb, conversation at home	50	Quiet
Library	40	
Quiet rural area	30	
Whisper, rustling leaves	20	Very Quiet
Breathing	10	
	0	Threshold of hearing