



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

## National Planning Standards

# Guidance for 15. Noise and Vibration Metrics Standard

This guidance is intended to help you understand and interpret the *National Planning Standard 15. Noise and Vibration Metrics* so you can efficiently and effectively implement it. It should be read alongside recommendations on submissions report 2J Noise and Vibration Metrics Standard for further context.

The standard provides direction on the New Zealand Acoustical Standards (NZAS) and other relevant noise and vibration standards to be used in plan rules. It does not provide direction on content.

## Scope of applicability

The *Noise and Vibration Metrics* Standard:

- only applies to 'noise measurement and symbols'. It does not provide direction for plan content such as noise limits
- applies in the coastal marine area
- does not apply in underwater environments.

Although the planning standards refer specifically to 'noise measurement methods and symbols' of the NZAS and specific parts of other noise and vibration standards, the standards should be read as whole, to provide context for specific provisions in the NZAS.

The 'noise measurement methods and symbols' from *NZAS 6807:1994 Noise management and land use planning for helicopter landing areas* has been included in the planning standards. The noise limits and averaging in section 4 are not included as part of the planning standards, as the averaging can enable excessive noise on particular days if there is little noise other days.

*NZAS 6802:2008, Acoustics-Environmental noise section 1, 1.2.1* sets out the scope of applicability of this NZAS. As explained in section 1, 1.2.1, the NZAS does not apply to impulsive sounds, including gunfire and blasting.

## Support to update and access NZAS

We will review whether the planning standards need to be updated when a new NZAS or a new version of an NZAS is created. Councils will be required to update planning documents to reflect the planning standards if they are changed.

We are currently investigating options to support councils to get access to either online or hard copies of the NZAS they do not currently have.

### Disclaimer

The information in this publication is, according to the Ministry for the Environment's best efforts, accurate at the time of publication. The Ministry will make every reasonable effort to keep it current and accurate. However, users of this publication are advised that:

- The information provided has no official status and does not alter the laws of New Zealand, other official guidelines or requirements.
- It does not constitute legal advice, and users should take specific advice from qualified professionals before taking any action as a result of information obtained from this publication.
- The Ministry for the Environment does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever whether in contract, tort, equity or otherwise for any action taken as a result of reading, or reliance placed on this publication because of having read any part, or all, of the information in this publication or for any error, or inadequacy, deficiency, flaw in or omission from the information provided in this publication.
- All references to websites, organisations or people not within the Ministry for the Environment are provided for convenience only and should not be taken as endorsement of those websites or information contained in those websites nor of organisations or people referred to.

Published in April 2019 by the

Ministry for the Environment

Publication number: INFO 874



**Making Aotearoa New Zealand**  
the most liveable place in the world

**New Zealand Government**