

MODEL SOUND INSULATION ORDINANCE
FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE RESIDENTIAL
BUILDING CODE

SECTION 1. TITLE AND PURPOSE. The Model Sound Insulation Ordinance. In order to promote good health, safety and general welfare of residential property users, regulating construction to accommodate the need for sound insulation is necessary. Sound insulation is required to protect the residential user from vehicular noise, aircraft noise, train noise and other noises that unreasonably interfere with the general welfare of the residents.

SECTION 2. INTERIOR NOISE LEVELS. Residential structures must have sufficient sound insulation/architectural treatment to keep the effect of external noise sources at no more than 45 dB within the structure.

SECTION 3. LOCATION OF STRUCTURES. The placement of all existing and proposed residential structures shall be shown as located on a sound overlay map for use by the public.

SECTION 4. AREAS OF SOUND TREATMENT. The following areas within a residence must be addressed:

- a. Windows - Tight fitting windows with an STC rating of 40 to 44.
- b. Doors - Prime doors must be pre-hung solid-core doors.
- c. Interior Walls - At least 5/8 inch drywall
- d. Interior Ceilings - At least 5/8 inch drywall
- e. Insulation - R-13 for walls; R-25 for ceilings

SECTION 5. HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC).

HVAC systems must be equipped with ventilation ducts connected to the outside so that fresh air may be mixed with existing interior air.

SECTION 6. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLAINT REQUIRED. Construction drawings shall be submitted to the (City, Town, Village) Building Department for review and certification that the proposed materials and construction techniques appear to be satisfactory for the desired acoustical treatment and in conformance with all applicable code provisions. Subsequent to the completion of the structure but before occupancy, a Certificate of Occupancy shall be issued by the (City, Town, Village) when field inspection indicates that the construction is in accordance with approved design.

DISCLAIMER – This model ordinance is to be used only as a guide and not intended to be adopted as written. It is imperative that any such ordinance that is to be adopted by a municipality be done so only with the consultation and advice of local counsel.