

**SUPERSEDED BY EB 21-057
EFFECTIVE 11/24/21**

ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**SUBJECT: STATEWIDE NOISE MEASUREMENT PROGRAM--
USE OF NOISE MEASUREMENT TECHNICIANS.**

Subject Code: 7.42

Distribution:

Main Office

Regions

Special

Code: EI 75-47

Date: 9/4/75

Supersedes:

APPROVED:


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The Materials Bureau Noise Measurement Unit recently administered a series of training courses in noise measurement. The subject matter included theory of sound and noise, equipment function and operation, and field noise measurement procedures. Participants who successfully completed both written and practical performance examinations have been issued certificates as Noise Measurement Technicians (NMTs).

From the Department's first involvement with noise measurement, two costly problems have been noted -- erroneous data and equipment damage. Noise measurement data is very sensitive to site conditions. Erroneous and useless data will result if incorrect measurement procedures are used. Correcting mistakes is both costly and time-consuming to the Department. Additionally, measurement data must be able to meet possible court challenge; therefore, it is very important that the measurements are properly conducted. Equipment damage through misuse by untrained personnel is also costly. Repairs to extension cables normally cost over \$50 per repair. Microphone repairs exceed \$100 each. This unnecessary damage can make an equipment set unavailable for field use for six weeks or more.

To reduce costly delays and repairs and to guarantee proper noise measurement for the Department, the following must be observed:

1. Noise measurements must be taken only by certified NMTs. In the event that manpower scheduling difficulties occur, special training courses in noise measurement will be given in the Region. In emergencies, up to three NMTs from the Main Office will be available for loan to the Regions as scheduling permits. In addition, regularly scheduled NMT training courses will continue to be offered in Albany.
2. Noise measurements taken by uncertified Department personnel after this Instruction's date of issuance are not acceptable for official purposes.
3. Noise measurement certificates are not transferable. Uncertified personnel cannot do work under the name of a certified NMT.
4. At least one certified NMT is required for all measurements. Uncertified personnel are limited to support activities such as counting traffic or indicating 10-second measurement intervals. Only the NMT may set up and operate measurement equipment and perform the data reduction and confidence limit criteria tests required at each measurement site.

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5. Unless otherwise specified by the Materials Bureau Noise Measurement Unit, measurements will be performed with the equipment and procedures given in Noise Field Test Method 1 of the manual Field Measurements of Existing Noise Levels.
6. Certificates can be revoked. Work will be reviewed and satisfactory performance required to maintain certification.
7. Engineering Bulletins will be periodically issued listing currently certified NMTs. Regional Noise Liaison Engineers will be notified when these Bulletins are issued.

Any questions concerning these seven points should be directed to the Main Office Noise Measurement Unit at 457-4285.

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