

From: [Jason Cao](#)
To: [Joan Yu](#)
Subject: RE: AUC Bulletin 2022-12 - Further consultation for potential changes to AUC Rule 012: Noise Control
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 3:40:57 PM

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Hi Joan,

Please see my responses below, highlighted in blue.

Further consultation will be focused exclusively on two topics: urban PSLs and new dwelling PSLs. More specifically, the AUC seeks feedback from stakeholders on the following questions:

1. Do you believe changes are required to Rule 012 to specifically address PSLs for urban environments in light of Decision 27276-D02-2022 or otherwise? Please explain.

Yes. I believe changes are needed to address PSLs for populated urban/metropolitan environments. Factors to consider may include: 1) the PSLs should be the lower value of the Rule 012 PSLs and the municipality noise level limit; 2) because of tight space in populated areas, more noise characteristics may need to be evaluated, e.g. tonality, impulse.

2. If you believe changes are required to Rule 012 to specifically address PSLs for urban environments:

2.1. Please discuss whether the existing provisions in Rule 012 for assessing ambient sound levels and the use of A2 adjustments are adequate to determine appropriate PSLs for urban environments. Please include a discussion of the pros and cons associated with using the existing provisions to determine PSLs for urban environments.

There should be more detailed requirements on how to conduct an ambient sound level survey in urban areas for A2 adjustment, e.g. weekdays and weekend days, various seasons, Leq for the entire nighttime or the lowest 1 hr Leq for nighttime, and the background L90 etc. The existing provisions to determine PSLs are still practical and reasonable. The cons include: 1) as abovementioned, how to conduct an appropriate ambient sound level survey to determine A2 adjustment; 2) the existing provisions don't include mid- or high-frequency tonality evaluation, which can be an important factor to consider for populated urban areas with a shorter distance to a major facility.

2.2. Please comment on how to define an urban receptor in Rule 012.

Besides the dwelling density and the proximity to a heavily travelled road, it may be worth referencing the Ontario MECP's Class 1 receptor definition, or to modify based on it. "Class 1 area" means an area with an acoustical environment typical of a major population centre, where the background sound level is dominated by the activities of people, usually road traffic, often referred to as "urban hum". For urban area with multi-family dwellings/ high-rise dwellings, elevated receptors should be considered. Balcony and window can be measurement locations.

2.3. Please provide any recommendations for determining appropriate PSLs for urban environments, including any specific considerations for industrial versus residential areas. Please include a discussion of the pros and cons associated with the recommended method to determine PSLs for urban environments.

For industrial areas, 65 dBA to 70 dBA can be a recommended limit; not sure if the AUC or the AER has the authority to impose this as a requirement. For residential areas, please see the responses to 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4.

2.4. Please comment on any other factors that should be considered in the context of establishing PSLs for urban environments.

Again, tonality evaluation and safety factor requirement during the planning and design phase (e.g. 5 dB), not limited to LFN tonal components. And considerations or penalties to impulsive sound, in case it occurs often.

3. Do you believe that changes are required to update the sections of Rule 012 that address PSLs for new dwellings (i.e., sections 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 and the definition of new dwelling in Appendix 1 – Glossary) in light of Decision 27444-D01-2022 or otherwise? Please explain.

No.

4. If you believe changes are required to update the sections of Rule 012 that address PSLs for new dwellings: 4.1. Please specify which paragraphs or sections of Rule 012 should be updated and provide any recommended updates. Please include a discussion of the pros and cons associated with the existing provisions and any recommended updates.

N.A.

4.2. Please explain how you believe PSLs for new dwellings should be established. In particular, please describe recommendations to provide enhanced clarity to the existing new dwelling provisions in Rule 012.

N.A.

4.3. Please comment on any other factors that should be considered in the context of establishing PSLs for new dwellings.

N.A.

Also, if you are interested, we may arrange several locations in Calgary to conduct ambient sound level surveys to get some first-hand information about the urban ambient, as you know I have sound and weather measurement equipment available to do so. It will also help the AER to make consistent decisions on urban receptors with the AUC.

Regards,

Jason Cao

From: Crystal Carstens <Crystal.Carstens@auc.ab.ca>

Sent: December 20, 2022 12:56 PM

Subject: AUC Bulletin 2022-12 - Further consultation for potential changes to AUC Rule 012: Noise Control

You don't often get email from crystal.carstens@auc.ab.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

The Alberta Utilities Commission has issued Bulletin 2022-12 “Further consultation for potential changes to AUC Rule 012: Noise Control.” The bulletin is attached to this email for convenience.

Any feedback should be sent to Joan Yu at joan.yu@auc.ab.ca by **February 17, 2023**.

Thank you,

Crystal Carstens

Administrative Assistant

Office: 403-592-4428

www.auc.ab.ca



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