

Regulation (EU) No 540/2014 on the sound level of motor vehicles and of replacement silencing systems

The regulation aims to cut major sources of noise caused by motor vehicles.

- This regulation aims to improve environmental protection and public safety and to ensure a better quality of life and health for people in the EU by reducing major sources of noise caused by motor vehicles.
- It does so by setting out the administrative and technical requirements for the EU approval of all new vehicles of certain categories (referred to in Article 2 of and Annex II to Directive 2007/46/EC) with regard to their sound level and for the EU approval of replacement silencing systems and related components.
- The regulation sets noise-limit values for the different vehicle categories and a timeframe for implementation.
- Noise limit values are maximum levels of sound measured in decibels and are listed in Annex III.

Regulation 540/2014 and Regulation 168/2013 were implemented in the Maltese legislation by: L.N. 62/2016 and L.N. 328/2015 respectively.

The method of application is incorrect, in as much that, key regulation concerning; safety, exhaust sound levels limits and method of measuring the vehicles exhaust sound were excluded.

Furthermore, the VRT exhaust sound level testing rating for:

Motor Vehicles is 100-105 dB

Motor Cycles is 119 dB

EU Regulations; 168/2013 & 540/2014 exhaust sound level rating is:

Motor Vehicles: 70 to 78 dB

Motor Cycles two Wheelers: 68 dB

The incorrect application of the above regulations is adversely affecting the quality and safety of the vehicles, when put in service and adversely effecting the health of those exposed to traffic noise.