

Chapter 14 ENVIRONMENT*

*Cross references: Land development, Ch. 20; buildings and building regulations, § 20-61 et seq.; floods, § 20-166 et seq.; erosion and sedimentation control for land use, § 20-318; manufactured homes and trailers, § 20-406 et seq.; solid waste, Ch. 23; solid, medical, hazardous, and/or low-level radioactive waste facilities, § 23-46 et seq.; streets, sidewalks and other public places, Ch. 26.

State law references: Regulation of junk and abandoned vehicles, G.S. 153A-132; noise regulation, G.S. 153A-133.

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any day, except in the case of urgent necessity in the interest of public safety, and then only under the direction of an appropriate county official.

- (7) The firing or discharging of a gun, firecrackers, gun powder or other combustible substance in the streets or elsewhere for the purpose of making noise or disturbance, except by permit from the sheriff.
- (8) The shouting and crying of peddlers, barkers, hawkers, and vendors which disturbs the quiet and peace of the neighborhood.
- (9) The operating or permitting the operation within a multifamily dwelling of any source of sound in a manner such that a reasonably prudent person would recognize as likely to unreasonably disturb persons in the vicinity.
- (10) The operating or permitting the operation of any mechanically powered saw, drill, grinder, lawn or garden tool, or similar tool between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. unless such equipment is operated inside a building or other structure so that the sound therefrom does not travel across any residential real property line. All such equipment shall be properly muffled and maintained in working order so as not to create excessive and unnecessary noise.
- (11) The operating or permitting the operation of any motorboat or similar craft in any lake, river, stream, canal, bay, or other waterway in such a manner as to cause unnecessary and excessive noise within a residential area.

(Ord. of 7-10-1995, § 2)

Sec. 14-63. Exemptions from section 14-62.

The following are exempt from the provisions of section 14-62:

- (1) Lawn mowers and agricultural equipment during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. when operated with all manufacturers' standard mufflers and noise reduction equipment in use and proper operating condition;
- (2) Nonamplified crowd noises resulting from the activities such as those planned by students, governmental, or community groups;
- (3) Construction operations for which building permits have been issued or construction operations not requiring permits due to ownership of the project by an agency of government; providing all equipment is operated in accord with the manufacturers' specifications and with all standard equipment manufacturers' mufflers and noise reducing equipment in use and in proper operating condition;
- (4) Noises of safety signals, warning devices, emergency pressure relief valves and bells and chimes of churches; and emergency electrical power generators.

- (5) Any other noise resulting from activities of a temporary duration permitted by law and for which a license or permit therefore has been granted by the county in accordance with the above. Regulation of noises emanating from operations under permit shall be according to the conditions and limits stated on the permit and contained above;
- (6) Noises made by persons having obtained a permit to use the streets;
- (7) All noises coming from the normal operations of aircraft (not including scale model aircraft) and all noises emanating from the Rockingham-Hamlet Airport property within the NEF (Noise Exposure Forecast) zones as established by the most recent survey, and maintained in the office of the airport manager;
- (8) All noises coming from the normal operations of the vehicles, aircraft, vendors, law enforcement authorities, and patrons emanating from the North Carolina Speedway and the Rockingham Dragway during regular business hours and scheduled activities and events;
- (9) All noises made by animals when a person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property in or upon which the animal is situated or for any legitimate cause which teased or provoked the animal.
- (10) All activities and operations on property within Heavy Industrial Zoning Districts as defined in the Richmond County Zoning Ordinance ~~as amended~~
- (11) Notwithstanding any future revisions to this section 14, all noise associated with a use that remains within the limits set forth by this section 14 in effect at the time of the issuance of a development permit for the use.

(Ord. of 7-10-1995, § 3) (Ord. of 5-13/2014)

Sec. 14-64. Special permits for relief from allowable noise level limits.

Applications for a permit for relief from the prohibited allowable noise level limits designated in section 14-62 may be made in writing to the Sheriff or his duly authorized representative. Any permit granted by the Sheriff under this article must be in writing and shall contain all conditions upon which such permit shall be effective. The Sheriff or his duly authorized representative may grant the relief as applied for under the following conditions:

- (1) General requirements. The Sheriff may prescribe any reasonable conditions or requirements he deems necessary to minimize adverse effects upon the community or the surrounding neighborhood, including use of mufflers, screens, or other sound attenuating devices.
- (2) Permits for entertainment. Permits may be granted for the purpose of entertainment under the following conditions:
 - a. The function must be open to the public (admission may be charged).
 - b. The function must take place on public property.