



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy Position on Noise Detection Legislation and Training

Date: September 8, 2008

Committee: Enforcement and Training Committee

Background

The Enforcement and Training Committee, and before it the Law Enforcement Committee, has been studying and debating issues with the SAE noise standards since at least 1999. In that time frame, the number of states enacting noise enforcement legislation had grown to thirty-one states. In 2006, NASBLA developed a Motorboat Muffler Sound Level Enforcement course to deliver training to marine law enforcement officers.

SAE developed noise test standard J34 for use in a manufacturing/test environment, and for years it was the only accepted standard test for noise from a motorboat muffler. As a result, many states adopted SAE J34 into their noise enforcement legislation. However, the test proved to be too restrictive for use in the marine law enforcement environment. As a result SAE developed two additional sound tests, SAE J1970 and SAE J2005, for use by marine law enforcement officers. These tests were developed in conjunction with NASBLA to specifically address the needs of the officers.

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators urges states to ensure that their noise laws reference SAE J1970 and SAE J2005 instead of SAE J34, and recommends that states with noise enforcement training needs utilize the NASBLA Motorboat Muffler Sound Level Enforcement course to provide the most current training curriculum to their marine law enforcement officers.

Policy References

NASBLA Law Enforcement Committee minutes, 1999-2007

NASBLA Enforcement and Training Committee minutes, 2008

NASBLA website, www.nasbla.org

NASBLA Resolution 2002-1, In Support of Installing Effective Muffler Systems on Motorboats in Constant Use

NASBLA Model Act for Motorboat Noise, 2005

NASBLA Reference Guide to State Boating Laws

SAE J1970, Shoreline Sound Level Measurement Procedure for Recreational Motorboats

SAE J2005, Stationary Sound Level Measurement Procedure for Recreational Motorboats

SAE J34, Exterior Sound Level Measurement Procedure for Recreational Motorboats

Policy Letters

None associated with this issue