

Operating guidelines

General

3.1. Annoyance to persons in the vicinity is most likely to be caused if the volume of chimes is excessive, if the chimes are played too frequently or for too long, if the chimes are sounded in areas where people are particularly sensitive to noise, or if the sound of the chimes is distorted. The methods by which such annoyance may be minimised are described in the following sections of this code of practice.

3.2 Owners should ensure that the main points of this code of practice are displayed in all vehicles fitted with a loudspeaker of the 'ice-cream van chimes' type, and that it is brought to the attention of all persons concerned with the operation of the chimes; the Annex to this code of practice contains a summary of the code of practice which could be used for display purposes.

Volume

4.1. No chimes should be operated which produce a noise level in any direction of more than $L_{Amax} 80dB$.¹ When operating in areas where houses are particularly close to the road, such as in narrow streets or when stationary, it may be necessary to reduce the volume of the chimes below $L_{Amax} 80dB$ to avoid disturbance.

4.2. Care should also be taken to avoid distortion of the chimes, which may occur if the volume is too high, or if the equipment is faulty or the component parts of the equipment are not correctly matched.

4.3 When, for the purposes of this code, the level of noise emitted by the chimes is being measured in accordance with the measurement method described in footnote 1, the restrictions on the use of the chimes recommended in paragraphs 5 and 6 below would not apply.

¹ At 7.5 metres over a 12-second period of continuous chiming. Noise measurements should be undertaken with a meter which conforms to BS EN 61672-1:2003 Electroacoustics. Sound level meters. Specifications (Class 1) set to the A-frequency weighting and the F-time weighting. The microphone should be held at a height of 1.2 metres above the ground, and at a distance of 7.5 metres from the loudspeaker. The microphone should be fitted with a windshield and the meter should be calibrated periodically and checked prior to (and after) measurement by a calibrator conforming to BS EN 60942:2003 Electroacoustics. Sound calibrators.

Playing time

5.1. The passage of music played should not last more than 12 seconds. Where the mechanism contains a timed cut-out device which can automatically limit the playing time to 12 seconds or less, it should be used.

Frequency

6.1. The chimes should be played once only on the approach to each stopping place (or 'selling point'), only once when the van is stationary, and never at intervals of less

than 2 minutes.

6.2. The chimes should not be played more often than once every 2 hours in a particular length of street.²

6.3. The chimes should not be played when in sight of another van (whether moving or stationary) which might reasonably be taken to be in the street for trading purposes.

6.4. Subject to those considerations, the chimes should be played only as often as is necessary to let customers know that the commodity is on sale from the vehicle.

Use of chimes in sensitive areas

7.1. The chimes should not be played in areas where people may be especially sensitive to their sound. In particular they should not be played:

- a. within 50 metres of any hospital or similar institution;
- b. within 50 metres of a school during school hours;
- c. within 50 metres of a place of worship on a Sunday or other recognised day of worship.

² A 'particular length of street' should normally be interpreted as being a length of street up to 500 metres long.