

Iowa Noise Related Statutes

TITLE VIII TRANSPORTATION SUBTITLE 2 VEHICLES CHAPTER 321 MOTOR VEHICLES AND LAW OF THE ROAD

321.432 Horns and warning devices.

Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation give audible warning with the horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

321.433 Sirens, whistles, and bells prohibited.

A vehicle shall not be equipped with and a person shall not use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section. It is permissible but not required that any commercial vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet, but the siren, whistle, or bell shall not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, and the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren, whistle, or bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

321.434 Bicycle sirens or whistles.

A bicycle shall not be equipped with and a person shall not use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle. This section shall not apply to bicycles ridden by peace officers in the line of duty.

321.436 Mufflers, prevention of noise.

Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, by-pass or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway.

CHAPTER 321G SNOWMOBILES AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

321G.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "*All-terrain vehicle*" means a motorized flotation-tire vehicle with not less than three low pressure tires, but not more than six low pressure tires, or a two-wheeled off-road motorcycle, that is limited in engine displacement to less than eight hundred cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to less than seven hundred fifty pounds and that has a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control. Two-wheeled off-road

motorcycles shall be considered all-terrain vehicles only for the purpose of titling and registration and not for purposes of regulation.

2. "*A' scale*" means the physical scale marked "A" graduated in decibels on a sound level meter which meets the requirements of the American national standards institute, incorporated, publication S1.4-1961, general purpose sound level meters.

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13. "*Person*" means an individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association, and the state, its agencies, and political subdivisions.

14. "*Public land*" means land owned by the federal government, the state, or political subdivisions of the state and land acquired or developed for public recreation pursuant to section 321G.7.

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18. "*Snowmobile*" means a motorized vehicle weighing less than one thousand pounds which uses sled-type runners or skis, endless belt-type tread, or any combination of runners, or skis.

321G.11 Mufflers required.

An all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile shall not be operated without suitable and effective muffling devices which limit engine noise to not more than eighty-six decibels as measured on the "A" scale at a distance of fifty feet; and a snowmobile, manufactured after July 1, 1973, which is sold, offered for sale, or used in this state, except in an authorized special event, shall have a muffler system that limits engine noise to not more than eighty-two decibels as measured on the "A" scale at a distance of fifty feet.

The commission may adopt rules with respect to the inspection of all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles and testing of their mufflers.

A separate placard shall be affixed, permanently and conspicuously, to any new snowmobile sold or offered for sale in this state that does not meet the muffler requirements as stated above. The placard shall designate each snowmobile which does not meet the muffler requirements.

A snowmobile manufactured after July 1, 1975, which is sold, offered for sale or used in this state, except in an authorized special event, shall have a muffler system that limits engine noise to not more than seventy-eight decibels as measured on the "A" scale at a distance of fifty feet.