

Well organized community-based events contribute to our community's well-being and overall health. As part of the facilitation of events, staff has been authorized to approve exemptions to the Noise Bylaw for specific times and locations of events. The Special Event or Parks Permit issued by the Arts, Culture and Events Office will include the specific conditions for such exemptions.

A public or private event may involve amplified announcements, music or other entertainment that does not have unreasonable impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood, but which exceed the maximum sound levels for the area as identified in the Noise Bylaw. In these cases, guidelines have been prepared for staff to use when considering [applications](#) for exemptions to the bylaw. The intention of the exemption permitting process is to ensure that the interests of both the organizer and neighbours are met throughout the duration of the event.

If the applicant is refused a request for an exemption by staff, they may appeal the decision to City Council. Without an exemption, organizers of such events are subject to the sound levels identified in the Updated Noise Bylaw.

GUIDELINES

1. Amplification at outdoor special events will be permitted only between the hours of 10:00 am and 10:00 pm with the following exceptions:
 - Public outdoor New Year's Eve celebrations operating with a City of Victoria Special Event Permit may be permitted to continue until 12:15 AM on January 1.
 - Canada Day celebrations operating with a City of Victoria Special Event Permit may be permitted to continue until 10:30 PM on July 1.
 - Centennial Square permits may be issued for festivals within the Square to operate after 10:00 PM, with clearly identified sound levels included in the permit and with start and end times determined by the time of sunset and level of darkness required by the event.
 - Concerts and other outdoor events at Market Square or other private venues may be permitted until 1:00 AM These events will require a Sound Exemption Permit from the City and will be limited to the same maximum levels as City-approved events.
2. Location of all speakers, sound booth and adjacent residences and visitor accommodation should be shown on a site plan or route map.
3. Sound limits established for the event will apply to all announcements and sound checks as well as to performances.
4. Maximum sound limits will be 90 decibels at any point of reception. Maximum sound levels will be established at locations which are easily monitored by the on site event representative.
5. City staff and Police may monitor the noise levels and, if the level is not reduced when directed by City staff or Police, cancel the event.

6. Measures should be taken to mitigate the impact of sound extending beyond the target audience. For example, speaker stacks may be positioned to tilt downward toward the audience rather than over the crowd.
7. The event organizer will be required to notify all potentially affected neighbouring businesses and residents about the proposed event. This includes times and dates, type of sound and contact names and numbers for persons who respond to any neighbourhood concerns before, during and following the event. The organizer is responsible for making reasonable attempts to address concerns of complainants.
8. Compliance with the conditions included in a Special Event or Parks Permit, including those regarding sound levels, will be considered for exemption requests by the same group in subsequent years. Staff may decline such a request if conditions were not met.