



# NJ TRANSIT Rail Operations

## **Does NJ TRANSIT have emissions limits for their trains while both idling and on scheduled trips?**

All locomotives must follow the revised Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for controlling emissions from mobile sources. All of NJ TRANSIT's locomotive fleet meets or exceeds the relevant EPA emissions standards. As NJ TRANSIT continues to modernize its fleet, newer equipment will also meet or exceed these standards.

*Please forward any further inquiries, issues, or concerns to:*

**Customer Service  
NJ TRANSIT  
One Penn Plaza East  
Newark, NJ 07105  
(973) 275-5555**

## **KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR!**

NJ TRANSIT's Train Stations and Rail Yards have been embedded in the communities we serve since the late 19th century.

NJ TRANSIT works every day according to federal regulations to guarantee the safety of our riders, ensure the efficiency of our service, and promote environmental awareness.

This brochure will answer your questions about how we regulate the noise and emission levels of our trains during scheduled trips, at crossings, and in our yards.





### **Why do NJ TRANSIT's locomotives need to sound their horns when entering a crossing?**

Federal Railroad Administration regulations require locomotive horns to be sounded in advance of all roadway rail crossings.

### **What are Quiet Zones and how is one established in a municipality?**

Quiet Zones are specific road/rail crossings at which locomotives are not required to sound their horn. Before being established, each Quiet Zone is evaluated for traffic volumes, patterns, line-of-sight concerns and other parameters to determine feasibility. Only local governments or public agencies may establish a Quiet Zone. Quiet Zones must be at least one-half mile in length, have at least one public-rail highway grade crossing, as well as the installation of silent safety management systems like medians or one-way street gates. Additional information may be found at <https://railroads.dot.gov/highway-rail-crossing-and-trespasser-programs/train-horn-rulequiet-zones/train-horn-rule-and-quiet>

### **What should a horn sound like when normally conducted?**

The horn sounding should occur 15 seconds prior to entering grade crossings. The pattern should be two long, one short, one long. If crossings are close together, one long sounding is used. Also, upon approaching a passenger station, the engineer is required to provide one long sounding.

### **Are there other instances when NJ TRANSIT train horns would be heard?**

Yes. These may include: signaling workers operating on tracks, warning an animal or person who may be on the tracks, or during daily testing of a locomotive's safety equipment.

### **There is a train yard nearby. How do residents know if noise levels exceed what is allowed?**

Under the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.) 7:29, a noise level exceedance occurs when levels are documented more than 65 dBA at any residential property line during daytime and 50 dBA during nighttime, as measured with a noise level meter set to slow response. The noise equivalent at day would be the sound of a power lawn mower, where at night it may resemble a loud office space. The noise level of an idling locomotive should not exceed 70 dBA at 100 ft.

### **Why do some of the noises at the train yard seem both shorter and louder than usual?**

Abrupt sound does occur at our yards during periods of maintenance or at the end of a scheduled trip (i.e. single peak lasting less than one second, as defined by the code) and are restricted to 80 dBA. During nighttime periods, abrupt sounds shall not be repeated more than four times in any hour and should remain at 50 dBA.

### **How does NJ TRANSIT regulate the noise and emissions of idling trains while in rail yards?**

NJ TRANSIT's practice is to ensure that diesel locomotives are connected to wayside power (when available) while laying over at yard locations. In addition to reducing noise, wayside power systems also reduce fuel costs, emissions, and equipment wear. If a train is not connected to wayside power it may be due to NJ TRANSIT personnel prepping the train for service, conducting maintenance, and cleaning. The diesel engine is required to run if the temperature drops below 30, and/or rises above 80 degrees Fahrenheit.