

**Table 4-1
Threshold for Noise Interference and Noise Abatement Criteria**

Activity Category	Threshold of Interference (Leq)	Noise Abatement Criteria (Leq)	Description of Activity Category
A	45 (Exterior)	57 (Exterior)	Tracts of land on which serenity and quiet are of extra-ordinary significance and serve an important public need, and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose. Such areas could include amphitheaters, particular parks or portions of parks, open spaces, or historic districts which are dedicated or recognized by appropriate local officials for activities requiring special qualities of serenity and quiet.
B	55 (Exterior)	67 (Exterior)	Picnic areas, recreation areas, playgrounds, active sports areas, and (exterior) parks which are not included in Category A, and residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, and hospitals.
C	60 (Exterior)	72 (Exterior)	Developed lands, properties, or activities not included in Categories A or B above.
D	--	--	For requirements on undeveloped lands, see paragraphs 11a and c of Federal Aid Highway Program Manual Volume 7, Chapter 7, Section 3.
E	40 (Interior)	52 (Interior)	Residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, and auditoriums.

Source: FHWA Report, *A Field Review of the Highway Traffic Noise Impact Identification and Mitigation Decisionmaking Processes*, Appendix B, Table 5.