

313: Sound Systems Guideline

[Guideline]

Whereas the sound pressure levels produced by sound systems, especially during festivals, can produce volumes of sound that can be dangerous;

Whereas when sound systems are pushed into levels of extreme volume and distortion the sound produced is potentially less than pleasant, sweet, and attractive;

Whereas ours is a preaching movement and we want to attract people as opposed to discouraging them from listening to our sound vibrations;

Whereas overly loud sound levels may disturb our neighbors, especially mangal arotik,

Whereas the volume of sound can be measured by Sound Pressure Level (SPL) meters, that can be purchased professionally, or downloaded as apps for iPhone, Android, and other devices

RESOLVED:

That the GBC Body hereby encourages ISKCON managers to monitor the levels of the sound systems in use at their centers. The sound system should be adjusted so that it sounds clear, sweet and attractive as opposed to overly loud, distorted or painful.

Whenever possible, the sound pressure levels should regularly be measured using sound pressure level meters to make sure that dangerous sound pressure levels are prevented. Such meters are available on mobile devices. (For example, dB Meter Pro on the App Store.)

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the USA, exposure to a noise level of 85 dBA over an eight hour work day and a 40 year working life is acceptable. For every 3 dBAs over 85dBA, the permissible exposure time before occupational noise-induced hearing loss can occur is cut in half.

85: ok

90: warning damage beginning to occur

100: Danger

