

Report to  
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse  
NR 5, Wis. Adm. Code  
Natural Resources Board Order No. LE-23-06

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

s. 30.62(2)(b), (d)2. and 3., Stats., interpreting s. 30.62(2)(d)2., Stats.

Federal Authority

N/A

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule

Section 30.62(2)(a), Stats., requires all boat sounds to meet the level of 86 DB or less in order to be legal. The current tests that the department uses are designed for motor exhaust noise or they are not safe to perform on airboats or hovercraft type boats when measuring noise other than muffler or exhaust noise. In 2005, the department was notified of concerns that it was not enforcing the noise requirements on airboats that were applicable to all other boats. Currently airboats and hovercraft have to meet the 86 db sound level as it relates to their engine exhaust noise, but there is no test that would allow for the safe testing of the propeller and fan noise. The proposed rule change in the testing process would utilize Society of Automotive Engineers test J1970 but would take into consideration the safety concerns when testing propeller and fan types of watercraft. The test contains step-by-step instructions for measuring noise from boats.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Public hearings, Natural Resources Board final adoption, followed by legislative review.

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available)

None

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