

CITY OF SASKATOON

The City of Saskatoon passed their Noise Bylaw number 8244 in 2003. Section 5.1 of the Bylaw reads as follow:

Without limiting the generality of section 5, for the purpose of regulating motor vehicle noise, the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) no person shall operate a motor vehicle in such a manner that it makes, continues, causes to be made or continues or suffers or permits to be made or continued any unreasonably loud or excessive noise;
- (b) in determining whether the noise from a motor vehicle is unreasonably loud or excessive, a justice may consider any of the factors mentioned in subsection 5(2); and
- (c) no person shall operate a motorcycle within the City of Saskatoon that is capable or emitting any sound exceeding 92 dB(A), as measured by a sound level meter at 50 centimeters from the exhaust outlet while the engine is at idle; or emitting any sound exceeding 96 dB(A), as measured by a sound level meter at 50 centimeters from the exhaust outlet while the engine is at any speed greater than idle.

In speaking with the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) Traffic Unit, they confirmed SPS currently has access to this testing equipment. SPS advised that although they have the equipment, they were not aware of any officers who typically use it. SPS stated they have never heard of any operations being set up to target noisy vehicles. The testing mechanism and time needed to operate the equipment is a deterrent to its use. Officers opt to use Section 215 of the Saskatchewan Traffic Safety Act in lieu of the Bylaw:

Excessive noise prohibited

Section 215 - No person shall create or cause the emission of any loud and unnecessary noise from a motor vehicle, a part of a motor vehicle or anything or substance that the motor vehicle or a part of the motor vehicle comes into contact with.

SPS only uses decibel level enforcement for motorcycles under Saskatoon Noise Bylaw 8244. Officers with SPS have been performing annual clinics as a Community Policing initiative, testing local motorcycles in the spring. However, according to their Data Management System, they have not written a single bylaw ticket for this offence since 2012. When confronted with a possible violation, the officers always choose to lay the charge under the Provincial Legislation or Section 5.1(a) of their noise Bylaw.

