

Chapter 554 Noise Control

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Article 1 INTERPRETATION

554.1.1 Definitions – AMPS Bylaw

AMPS Bylaw shall mean the Administrative Monetary Penalties System respecting non-parking bylaw violations as amended or any successor thereto. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.1.2 Clerk and Deputy Clerks – defined

“Clerk” and “Deputy Clerk” shall mean the Clerk and Deputy Clerk(s) of The Corporation of the City of Brantford. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.3 Construction – defined

“construction” includes erection, alteration, repair, dismantling, demolition, structural maintenance, painting, moving, land clearing, earth moving, grading, excavating, the laying of pipe and conduit whether above or below ground level, street and highway building, concreting, equipment installation and alteration and the structural installation of construction components and materials in any form or for any purpose, and includes any work in connection therewith. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.4 Construction equipment – defined

“construction equipment” means any equipment or device designed and intended for use in construction or material handling, including but not limited to, air compressors, pile drivers, pneumatic or hydraulic tools, bulldozers, tractors, excavators, trenchers, cranes, derricks, loaders, scrapers, pavers, generators, off-highway haulers or trucks, ditchers, compactors and rollers, pumps, concrete mixers, graders or other material handling equipment. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.5 Conveyance – defined

“conveyance” includes a vehicle and any other device employed to transport a person or persons or goods, from place to place but does not include any such device or vehicle if operated only within the premises of a person. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.6 Council – defined

“Council” means the Council of The Corporation of the City of Brantford. By-law 32-2017, 28 February 2017

554.1.7 Director – defined

“Director” means the City’s Director of By-law and Security and/or their designate.

554.1.8 Highway – defined

“highway” includes a common and public highway, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle designed and intended for, or used by, the general public for the passage of vehicles. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.9 Minister – defined

“Minister” means Minister of the Environment. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.10 Ministry – defined

“Ministry” means Ministry of the Environment. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.11 Motor vehicle – defined

“motor vehicle” includes an automobile, motorcycle, and any other vehicle propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular power; but does not include the cars of electric or steam railways, or other motor vehicles running only upon rails, or a motorized snow vehicle, traction engine, farm tractor, self-propelled implement of husbandry or road-building machine within the meaning of the Highway Traffic Act. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.12 Motorized conveyance – defined

“motorized conveyance” means a conveyance propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular, gravitational or wind power. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.13 Municipality – defined

“municipality” means the land within the geographic limit of the City of Brantford. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980; By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.14 Noise – defined

“noise” means sound and vibration arising therefrom, emitted in such a manner or with such volume as to likely disturb local inhabitants. By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009; By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.15 Noises Likely to Disturb – defined

“noises likely to disturb” include a noise which disturbs a police officer (or by-law officer) investigating complaints which are received in regard to enforcement of this Chapter, the noise or sound caused or made by an amplifier or loud speaker carried in or attached to a motor vehicle being operated or standing on a public highway and the

noise or sounds caused or made by an amplifier or loud speaker carried in or attached to a motor vehicle being operated or standing on a public highway. By-law 21-2018, 27 February, 2018

554.1.16 Nuisance Noise – defined

“Nuisance Noise” means unreasonable noise occurring during the exempted time periods caused by reason of a person’s conduct including the noise made by loud sound amplification equipment, that is of such volume or nature that it disrupts or causes a person’s property to become unusable or unpleasant; By-law 57-2026, 26 May, 2026.

554.1.17 Officer - defined

“Officer” means a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer appointed under any federal or provincial statute or regulation or City by-law or any other person assigned or appointed by Council of the City to administer or enforce this By-law and includes a person employed by the City whose duties are to enforce this By-law. Bylaw 148-2024 29, October 2024

554.1.18 Person – defined

“Person” shall mean an individual, firm, corporation, association or partnership and includes an Owner. Bylaw 148-2024 29, October 2024

554.1.19 Point of reception – defined

“point of reception” means any point on the premises of a person where sound or vibration originating from other than those premises is received. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.20 Property – defined

“Property” means land, including a building or structure, or part of a building or structure. Bylaw 148-2024 29, October 2024

554.1.21 Shall – mandatory

The word “shall” is mandatory and not directory. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.1.22 Singular - plural - present - future tense

Words in the singular include the plural; words in the plural include the singular number; and words in the present tense include the future. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980; By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017.

**Article 2
Applicability**

554.2.1 Designated area

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to all land within the geographical limits of the City of Brantford. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980; By-law 115-93, 20 September, 1993

554.2.2 Designated area – exception

Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any operational noise from lands zoned for Commercial or Industrial uses which are permitted to escape through open doors, windows or apertures and are audible from a distance of 70 metres to a Residentially zoned property except between the hours of 10:00pm to 7:00am Monday to Saturday and 10:00pm to 9:00am Sundays. By-law 21-2018, 27 February, 2018

554.2.3 Interpretation

For the purposes of Section 554.2.2, “manufacturing industry,” “research industry,” “wholesale industry,” “warehouse industry,” and “industry engaged in the storage of goods, materials or things” shall have the same meanings as those terms have in the City of Brantford Applicable Zoning By-law, as amended from time to time.

554.2.4 Environmental Protection Act – prohibition

Nothing in this Chapter shall be interpreted to authorize the making of any noise where the same would be a contravention of the Environmental Protection Act.

554.2.5 Environmental Protection Act – authorization

Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit the making of any noise where such noise is made under the authority of a Certificate of Approval or Provisional Certificate of Approval issued pursuant to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act. By-law 115-93, 20 September, 1993.

Article 3 General Prohibitions

554.3.1 Emission - prohibited - Schedule ‘A’

No person shall emit or cause or permit the emission of noise resulting from any act listed in Schedule ‘A’ of this Chapter, from any point located on land within the geographical limits of the City of Brantford, within a prohibited time shown in said Schedule ‘A’ if said emission is clearly audible at any point of reception located on land within the geographical limits of the City of Brantford.

554.3.2 Emission - noise – acts

No person shall emit or cause or permit the emission of noise resulting from an act listed in this Article, and which noise is clearly audible at a point of reception within the geographical limits of the City of Brantford. By-law 9-80, 24 May, 1980; By-law 115-93, 20 September, 1993; By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009

554.3.3 Racing - motorized conveyance – exception

Racing of any motorized conveyance other than in a racing event regulated by law is prohibited.

554.3.4 Tires – squeal

The operation of a motor vehicle in such way that the tires squeal is prohibited.

554.3.5 Operation - engine - ineffective muffler

The operation of any combustion engine or pneumatic device without an effective exhaust or intake muffling device in good working order and in constant operation is prohibited. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980.

554.3.6 Trailer - insecure load - inadequate maintenance

The operation of a vehicle with a trailer resulting in banging, clanking, squealing or other like noises due to improperly secured load or equipment, or inadequate maintenance is prohibited. By-law 38-200, 6 April, 2009.

554.3.7 Operation - horn - not required – unauthorized

The operation of a motor vehicle horn or other warning device except where required or authorized by law or in accordance with good safety practices is prohibited.

554.3.8 Construction equipment - with ineffective muffler

The operation of any item of construction equipment without effective muffling devices in good working order and in constant operation is prohibited. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980

554.3.9 Loud speakers and amplifiers – noise

The noise or sounds caused or made by an amplifier or loud speaker carried in or attached to a motor vehicle being operated or standing on a public highway is prohibited. By-law 21-2018, 27 February, 2018

Article 4

Exemption – Emergency Measures Public Safety

554.4.1 Emission - legal – acts

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Chapter, it shall be lawful to emit or cause or permit the emission of noise in connection with emergency measures undertaken. By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009

554.4.2 Immediate health - safety – welfare

Incidental noise for the immediate health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants or any of them is permissible.

554.4.3 Preservation - restoration - property - exception

Incidental noise for the preservation or restoration of property; unless such sound or vibration is clearly of a longer duration or nature more disturbing, than is reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of such emergency purpose is permissible. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980.

Article 5

Grant - Of Exemption

554.5.1 Application – conditions – requirements

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter, any person may make application to the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk, in a form and with such content as required by the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk, to be granted an exemption from any of the provisions of this Chapter with respect to any source of noise for which such person might be prosecuted, and the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk may refuse to grant any exemption or may grant the exemption applied for or any exemption of lesser effect, and any exemption so granted shall specify the time period, not in excess of six (6) months, during which said exemption shall be effective, and may contain such terms and conditions as the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk sees fit. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.5.2 Breach - exemption – void

Breach by the applicant of any of the terms or conditions of the exemption shall render the exemption null and void. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980

554.5.3 Repealed: By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009

554.5.4 Repealed: By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009

554.5.5 Application – fee

An application fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be submitted along with any application for an exemption from the provisions of this Chapter. Applications not accompanied by the required application fee shall be rejected without further notice to the applicant. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017.

554.5.6 Application – notification requirement

Prior to making an application for an exemption pursuant to subsection 554.5.1 above, the applicant shall provide written notice, by way of personal service or regular or registered mail, to all residential properties located within one hundred and twenty (120) metres of the proposed event location, at least sixty (60) days prior to the proposed event wherein the noise will be emitted. The required notification shall be in a form and with such content as required by the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk. A copy of the notice, along with confirmation of the required distribution, must be attached to the application form for the exemption and submitted to the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

554.5.7 Permit – Issued – Displayed

If an application for exemption is approved pursuant to subsection 554.5.1 above, the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk shall issue a permit to the applicant providing for the noise exemption and noting the period of time to which the exemption shall apply, as well as the conditions attached to said exemption. The applicant shall display said permit in a conspicuous location at the premises where the noise will be emitted, so that said permit is visible to the general public. The permit shall remain displayed in the manner required pursuant to this subsection 554.5.7 until such time as said permit expires. By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017

Article 6 Activities - Exempted

554.6.1 Emission - permitted – acts

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Chapter, this Chapter does not apply to a person who emits or causes or permits the emission of noise in connection with any of the activities set out in Sections 554.6.2 through 554.6.7 inclusive. By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009

554.6.2 Parade – authorized

Incidental noise from any parade duly authorized by the City of Brantford Police Force is permissible.

554.6.3 Bells - chimes - Church activities

Incidental noise from the use of bells or chimes normally associated with Church activities is permissible.

554.6.4 Carnival - circus - midway - valid licence

Incidental noise from any carnival, midway or circus holding a valid licence issued by The Corporation of the City of Brantford is permissible. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980

554.6.5 Event - performance - permit – issued

Incidental noise up to 11:00 p.m. from any sporting, recreational, musical, entertainment or other event or performance in municipal parks, Harmony Square, or municipal buildings for which a permit has been issued by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Brantford is permissible. By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009

554.6.6 Activities - maintenance - essential services

Incidental noise from all activities of The Corporation of the City of Brantford, or its servants or agents, associated with the provision of maintenance and essential services is permissible.

554.6.7 Firework - detonation - authorized - Fire Department

Incidental noise from the detonation of fireworks duly authorized by the City of Brantford Fire Department is permissible.

554.6.8 Deliveries – After hours

Incidental noise in connection with the delivery of goods as authorized in the Municipal Code (Section 130 (1)) is permissible for the following:

1. Retail business establishments.
2. Restaurants, including cafes and bars.
3. Hotels and motels.
4. Goods distribution facilities.

Bylaw 57-2026, 26 May, 2026.

Article 7 Regulations

554.7.1 Practices - procedures - by resolution

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Brantford may make regulations by resolutions:

- a) prescribing and governing practices and procedures on appeals to Council under this Chapter and respecting any matter arising from or incidental to such appeals and providing for time limits for such appeals;
- b) prescribing and governing practices and procedures on applications for exemption from any of the provisions of this Chapter as provided in Sections 554.5.1 and 554.5.2. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980.

Article 8 Enforcement

554.8.1 Fine - for contravention

Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Chapter is guilty of an offence and shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a penalty of not more than \$5,000, exclusive of costs and every such fine is recoverable under the Provincial Offences Act. By-law 55-92, 23 March, 1992.

554.8.2 Officers

The provisions of this Chapter shall be enforced by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers designated by Council, and by members of the Brantford Police Force.

554.8.3 Designated Bylaw

This Bylaw is a designated bylaw under the Corporation of the City of Brantford

Administrative Penalty Bylaw. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.8.4 Issuance

Instead of laying a charge under the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 33, as amended, for a breach of any provision of this By-law, an officer may issue an administrative penalty to the person who has contravened this By-law. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.8.5 Officer Discretion

The Officer has the discretion to either proceed by way of an administrative penalty or a charge laid under the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.33. If a person is required by a municipality to pay an administrative penalty in respect of a contravention of this By-law, the person shall not be charged with an offence in respect of the same contravention. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.8.6 Fine Amount

The amount of the administrative penalty for a breach of a provision of this By-law, issued under this By-law, is fixed as set out in the Corporation of the City of Brantford's Administrative Penalty By-law as amended, or any successor By-law. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.8.7 Procedure

A person who is issued an administrative penalty shall be subject to the procedures as provided for in the Corporation of the City of Brantford's Administrative Penalty By-law as amended, or any successor By-law. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.8.8 Non-payment

An administrative penalty imposed on a person pursuant to this By-law that is not paid within 15 days after the day it becomes due and payable, constitutes a debt of the person to the Corporation of the City of Brantford and may be added to a municipal tax roll and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.8.9 Obstruct Officer

No person shall prevent, hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct an Officer who is exercising a power or performing a duty under this Bylaw. Bylaw 90-2026, 28 July, 2026.

554.8.10 Powers of Entry

An Officer may enter onto Property at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine whether any provision of this By-law or an Order made under this By-law is being complied with. Bylaw 148-2024 29, October, 2024

554.8.11 Inspection

For the purposes of conducting an inspection pursuant to this By-law, an Officer may:

- a) require the production for inspection of documents or things relevant to the inspection;
- b) inspect and remove documents or things relevant to the inspection for the purpose of making copies or extracts;
- c) require information from any Person concerning a matter related to the inspection; and
- d) alone, or in conjunction with a Person possessing special or expert knowledge, make examinations or take tests, samples or photographs necessary for the purpose of inspection. Bylaw 148-2024 29, October, 2024.

554.8.12 Obstruction

No Person shall prevent, hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct an Officer who is exercising a power or performing a duty under this By-law. Bylaw 148-2024 29, October, 2024

Article 9

Repeal - Enactment

554.9.1 By-laws - previous

City of Brantford By-laws 2283, 54-75, and 14-80 are herewith repealed. Section (9) of City of Brantford By-law 877 is herewith repealed. By-law 59-80, 24 May, 1980.

554.9.2 Minister of Environment - approval - By-law 59-80

By-law 59-80 was approved by Harry Parrott, Minister of the Environment, pursuant to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, at Toronto on the 24th day of May, 1980.

Minister of Environment - approval - By-law 115-93

By-law 115-93, amending By-law 59-80, was approved by the Minister of Environment and Energy, pursuant to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, on the 10th day of November, 1993. By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009

Schedule

Schedule 'A' - Prohibitions by time and place

Act	Prohibited Period of Time

1. The detonation of fireworks or explosive devices not used in construction.	At all times
2. Noise from the discharge of firearms is prohibited except from a shooting club or shooting range that has received the appropriate approval under the <i>Firearms Act</i> and any other applicable legislation, hunting or an agricultural purpose permitted by law, and not otherwise prohibited by any other by-law of The Corporation of the City of Brantford. By-law 21-2018, 27 February, 2018	At all times
3. The operation of a combustion engine which: a) is; or b) is used in; or c) is intended for use in, a toy, or a model or replica of any device which model or replica has no function other than amusement and which is not a conveyance.	At all times
4. The noise or sound made or created by any radio, phonograph, public address system, sound equipment, loud speaker, musical instrument or other sound-producing equipment, when the equipment is played or operated in such a manner that the sound or noise made or created thereby unreasonably disturbs the peace, comfort or repose of any person in a dwelling house, or a police officer acting in accordance with their duties under the Community Safety and Policing Act, or successor. By-law 57-2026, 26, May, 2026	24 hrs to Thursday 9:00pm one day to 7:00am the next day, Friday and Saturday (and Sundays of statutory weekends) By-law 57-2026, 26 May, 2026
5. The operation of any motorized conveyance other than on a highway or other place intended for its operation.	At all times
6. Persistent barking, calling or whining or other similar persistent noise making by any domestic pet or any other animal kept or used for any purpose other than agriculture.	At all times
7. The operation of a commercial car wash with air drying equipment	2100 one day to 0700 next day
8. Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing	2100 one day to 0700 next day
9. All selling or advertising by shouting or outcry or amplified sound.	2100 one day to 0700 next day

10. Loading, unloading, delivering, packing, unpacking, or otherwise handling any containers, products, materials, or refuse, whatsoever, unless necessary for the maintenance of essential services, the moving of private household effects, or in connection with the delivery of goods to retail business establishments, restaurants including cafes and bars, hotels, motels and goods distribution facilities. (By-law 182-2021, 28 September 2021)	2100 one day to 0700 next day, 0900 Saturdays and Sundays
11. The operation of any equipment in connection with construction.	2100 one day to 0700 next day
12. The operation or use of any tool for domestic purposes other than snow removal.	2100 next day to 0700 next day
13. The operation of a motor vehicle, off-road vehicle, snowmobile, or other similar motorized conveyance for recreational purposes on any property other than a highway or private driveway.	At all times
14. Nuisance Noise - By reason of the conduct on a premise results in unreasonable noise during the exempted time periods, including loud sound amplification equipment, that is of such volume or nature that it disrupts or causes a person's property to become unusable or unpleasant. By-law 57-2026, 26 May 2026.	At all times

By-law 38-2009, 6 April, 2009; Schedule 'A'; By-law 38-2013, 22 April, 2013; By-law 32-2017, 28 February, 2017; By-law 21-2018, 27 February, 2018; By-law 149-2021, 22 June, 2021, By-law 57-2026, 26 May, 2026.