

APPENDIX A ACOUSTICAL TERMINOLOGY

AMBIENT NOISE LEVEL:	The composite of noise from all sources near and far. In this context, the ambient noise level constitutes the normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.
DECIBEL, dB:	A unit for describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micropascals (20 micronewtons per square meter).
Ldn or DNL:	Day/Night Average Sound Level. The average equivalent sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of ten decibels to sound levels in the night after 10:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m.
Leq:	Equivalent Sound Level. The sound level containing the same total energy as a time-varying signal over a given sample period. Leq is typically computed over 1, 8 and 24-hour sample periods.
<hr/> <p>NOTE: Ldn represent daily levels of noise exposure averaged on an annual basis, while Leq represents the average noise exposure for a shorter time period, typically one hour.</p>	
Lmax:	The maximum noise level recorded during a noise event.
SEL or SENEL:	Sound Exposure Level or Single Event Noise Exposure Level. The level of noise accumulated during a single noise event, such as an aircraft overflight, with reference to a duration of one second. More specifically, it is the time-integrated A-weighted squared sound pressure for a stated time interval or event, based on a reference pressure of 20 micropascals and a reference duration of one second.
SOUND LEVEL:	The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the response of

the human ear and gives good correlation with subjective reactions to noise.