

Protection From Environmental Noise Act

Promulgated, State Gazette No. 74/13.09.2005, effective 1.01.2006, amended, SG No. 30/11.04.2006, effective 12.07.2006, amended and supplemented, SG No. 41/2.06.2009, effective 2.06.2009, amended, SG No. 98/14.12.2010, effective 1.01.2011, supplemented, SG No. 32/24.04.2012, effective 24.04.2012, amended, SG No. 66/26.07.2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/28.11.2014, effective 28.11.2014, amended and supplemented, SG No. 12/3.02.2017

Text in Bulgarian: Закон за защита от шума в околната среда

Chapter One

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Act shall regulate:

1. The assessment, management and control of environmental noise emitted by road, railway, air and water traffic, as well as by industrial installations and facilities, including the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act, and by local noise sources;
2. The determination of the degree of environmental noise by measurement, assessment and mapping of environmental noise levels and by strategic noise mapping;
3. The acoustical planning by development of action plans based upon noise-mapping results, with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise, particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health, and to preserving environmental noise quality where it is good;
4. The access to and provision of information to the public on environmental noise and its effects;
5. The competencies of the governmental authorities and the local government authorities, the rights and obligations of legal entities and sole proprietors involved in the assessment, management and control of environmental noise.

Article 2

The objectives of this Act for creation of healthy living conditions and for protection of the environment from noise shall be achieved by development and implementation of an integrated approach and measures for noise avoidance, prevention or reduction.

Article 3

(1) This Act shall apply to environmental noise to which humans are exposed in built-up areas, in parks and gardens or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, or in areas near schools, hospitals and scientific research organisations.

(2) This Act shall not apply to:

1. noise that is caused by the exposed person himself;
2. noise from domestic activities;
3. noise created by neighbours in residential buildings;
4. noise at work places;

5. noise inside means of transport;

6. noise due to military activities.

(3) The assessment, management and control of noise in the working environment shall be performed in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act and the secondary legislation regulating its application.

(4) The assessment, management and control of noise in residential and public buildings shall be performed in accordance with the Health Act and the secondary legislation regulating its application.

(5) The requirements to noise from domestic activities and neighbours in residential buildings shall be determined with regulations issued by the municipal councils and adopted pursuant to the Self-government and Local Administration Act.

(6) The requirements for limiting harmful noise during the design and construction phases shall be determined pursuant to the Spatial Development Act.

Chapter Two **STRATEGIC NOISE MAPPING AND ACTION PLANS**

Article 4

(1) Strategic maps of environmental noise shall be made and approved for agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports within the territory of the country.

(2) Within the strategic maps for agglomerations separate strategic noise maps for noise emitted by road, rail, air and water traffic, by industrial activity sites, etc. shall be prepared where such noise sources are present in the respective agglomeration.

(3) The strategic noise maps referred to in Para. 1 shall contain verbal and graphic information on:

1. an existing, a previous or a predicted noise situation in terms of noise indicator values;

2. the exceeding of the limit values for noise indicators;

3. the number of dwellings, schools, hospitals and scientific research organisations in a certain area that are exposed to higher values of the noise indicators;

4. the number of people located in an area exposed to noise.

(4) The strategic noise maps referred to in Para. 1 shall delineate the areas where a certain noise indicator has been exceeded and can induce harmful effects on human health and to which the action plans referred to in Article 6 apply.

(5) (Supplemented, SG No. 12/2017) The strategic noise maps referred to in Paragraph 1 shall be reviewed, and, where necessary, revised and approved, at least every five years after the date of their approval by the competent authorities referred to in Article 5, Paragraph 6.

Article 5

(1) The preparation of strategic noise maps shall be assigned by:

1. municipality mayors - for agglomerations;

2. the Minister of Transport - for major railways and major airports;

3. (amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works - for major roads.

(2) Municipality mayors shall submit the draft strategic noise maps to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment and Water for opinion no later than 4 months prior to the deadline for their approval as set in § 2.

(3) Within two months of submission of the draft strategic noise map, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment and Water shall send to the municipality mayor an opinion which shall be taken into consideration when preparing the final version of the strategic noise map.

(4) In cases other than those referred to in Paragraph 1, item 1 the preparation of strategic noise maps may be assigned by the mayor of the respective municipality at his or her initiative and shall be approved by the respective municipal council.

(5) (Amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) The Minister of Transport and the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works shall submit the draft strategic noise maps for approval to the Minister of Health no later than 4 months prior to the deadline for their approval as set in § 2.

(6) Strategic noise maps referred to in Paragraph 1 shall be approved by:

1. the municipal councils - for agglomerations;

2. the Minister of Health - for major railways, major airports and major roads, upon a proposal made by the expert council with the Ministry of Health.

(7) The functions and composition of the expert council referred to in Paragraph 6, item 2 shall be settled with rules approved by the Minister of Health. The chairperson of the expert council shall be appointed by the Minister of Health, and the deputy chairperson - by the Minister of Environment and Water. The Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment and Water shall appoint an equal number of expert council members.

Article 6

(1) Action plans shall be drawn up with a view to management, prevention and reduction of environmental noise in agglomerations and in areas referred to in Article 3, Paragraph 1 in immediate proximity to major roads, major railways and major airports, industrial installations and facilities, including the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act, as well as to local noise sources.

(2) The action plans referred to in Paragraph 1 shall contain analyses of the current status, forecasts and measures for noise reduction and prevention related to the exceeding of limit values for relevant environmental noise indicators in the agglomerations and in proximity to major roads, major railways and major airports within the territory of the country.

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 12/2017) The action plans referred to in Paragraph 1 shall be reviewed, and, where necessary, revised and approved, at least every five years after the date of their approval by the competent authorities referred to in Article 8, Paragraph 2.

(4) The measures to reduce and prevent environmental noise envisaged in the action plans shall be implemented within the indicated timeframes and shall be funded by the owners of the sites and facilities emitting environmental noise, or by the concessionaires where concession agreements have been concluded.

(5) The measures to reduce and prevent environmental noise emitted by industrial installations and facilities from the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act shall form part of the integrated permit conditions.

Article 7

The requirements to the development and contents of the strategic noise maps referred to in Article 4 and to the action plans referred to in Article 6 shall be determined with a regulation issued by the Council of Ministers upon a proposal made by the Minister of Health.

Article 8

(1) Action plan preparation shall be assigned by:

1. the mayor of the respective municipality - for agglomerations, following the procedure for preparation, approval, reporting and control of municipal programmes for environmental protection under Chapter Five of the Environmental Protection Act;
2. the Minister of Transport - for major railways and major airports;
3. (amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works - for major roads.

(2) The action plans referred to in Paragraph 1 shall be approved by:

1. the municipal councils - for agglomerations;

2. the Minister of Health - for major railways, major airports and major roads, upon a proposal made by the expert council referred to in Article 5, Paragraph 6, item 2.

(3) The measures envisaged in the action plans shall form an integral part of the respective municipal programme for environmental protection.

(4) In cases other than those referred to in Paragraph 1, item 1 the preparation of action plans may be assigned by the mayor of the respective municipality at his or her initiative and shall be approved by the respective municipal council

Chapter Three INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Article 9

(1) During the development action plans referred to in Article 6 the competent authorities referred to in Article 8, Paragraph 1 shall organise public discussions which may be attended by public bodies, associations, natural persons and legal entities, executive bodies and local government authorities, as well as other interested parties.

(2) The competent authorities referred to in Article 8, Paragraph 1 shall make the draft action plan accessible 30 days prior to the public discussion. Using the mass media or other appropriate methods, they shall notify the persons referred to in Paragraph 1 of the location where the draft action plan is available, as well as the location and date of the public discussion.

(3) The persons referred to in Paragraph 1 shall submit their opinions in writing at the public discussion meeting or shall send them to the competent authority no later than 7 days after the day of the public discussion.

(4) The opinions from the public discussion shall be taken into consideration by the competent authorities in preparation of the final draft of the action plans.

Article 10

(1) The competent authorities referred to in Article 8, Paragraph 1 shall ensure public access to the approved strategic noise maps and the approved action plans pursuant to Chapter Two of the Environmental Protection Act, including via modern information technologies.

(2) A summary of key information from the strategic noise maps referred to in Article 4 and the action plans referred to in Article 6 shall be published in the annual reports on the state of the environment referred to in Article 11, item 8 of the Environmental Protection Act.

(3) Information on environmental noise shall be public. It shall be published on the web sites of the respective responsible institutions and persons in accordance with Chapter Two of the Environmental Protection Act.

(4) The key indicators and levels of environmental noise in populated areas which take into account day-time and night-time degree of annoyance shall be determined with the regulation referred to in Article 11, item 5 and shall be published on the web site of the Ministry of Health.

Chapter Four

COMPETENCIES OF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AUTHORITIES, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF LEGAL ENTITIES AND SOLE PROPRIETORS

Article 11

The Minister of Health:

1. shall organise the establishment, operation and management of the national system for noise monitoring in urbanised areas in accordance with the Health Act;
2. shall organise the assessment of harmful effects of noise on human health;
3. shall organise the measurement, assessment, management and control of environmental noise emitted by local noise sources;
4. shall prepare an annual summary national report on environmental noise and within 6 months after the end of the calendar year shall submit it to the Minister of Environment and Water for the preparation of the annual reports on the state of the environment referred to in Article 11, item 8 of the Environmental Protection Act;
5. jointly with the Minister of Environment and Water shall issue a regulation determining environmental noise indicators for day-time and night-time degrees of annoyance, limit values for environmental noise indicators, assessment methods for environmental noise indicators, as well as assessment methods for harmful effects of noise on human health;
6. jointly with the Minister of Environment and Water shall issue a regulation on the procedure and method for establishing the network of the national system for environmental noise monitoring and for its operation, and on the requirements for self-monitoring for environmental noise and provision of information from environmental noise;
7. (amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) jointly with the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works shall issue a regulation on the requirements for establishment, maintenance and contents of the registers referred to in Articles 13 and 14.

Article 12

The Minister of Environment and Water:

1. shall organise the measurement, assessment, management and control of noise emitted by industrial installations and facilities, including the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act;
2. jointly with the Minister of Health shall organise the provision of information on environmental noise to international organisations in accordance with international agreements to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party.

Article 13

The Minister of Transport:

1. shall organise the establishment and maintenance of a register of major airports and major railways in the country;
2. shall organise the activities for determining the major airports and major railways in the country.

Article 14

(Amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013)

(1) (Amended, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) The Minister of Regional Development and Public Works:

1. shall organise the establishment and maintenance of a register of agglomerations and major roads in the country;
2. shall organise the activities for determining the agglomerations and major roads in the country;

(2) (Amended, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) Minister of Regional Development and Public Works jointly with the Minister of Health, the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Environment and Water shall issue a regulation on mitigating harmful noise by noise insulation of buildings during the design phase and rules and norms for noise emitted during construction work.

Article 15

(1) Municipality mayors and mayors of town regions in towns with regional division:

1. shall organise and assign the preparation of the strategic noise maps referred to in Article 4 and of the action plans referred to in Article 6 on the local level and shall exercise control over them;
2. shall assign officials with the necessary qualification from the existing municipal administration structures to control and implement the activities for mitigating environmental noise levels.

(2) The competent central administration authorities shall provide methodological assistance to local government authorities for the performance of their duties.

Article 16

Legal entities and sole proprietors:

1. shall operate in a manner which does not lead to emission of environmental noise exceeding the limit values set with the regulation referred to in Article 11, item 5;
2. the owners of installations and facilities belonging to the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act shall conduct self-monitoring and shall submit to the regional inspectorates of environment and water (RIEW) information on the environmental noise they emit;
3. shall assist the competent authorities referred to in this Act for the purposes of control and inspection.

Article 16a

(New, SG No. 41/2009, effective 2.06.2009)

(1) No manufacturing, storage or trade facilities located in residential buildings intended for occupancy by multiple households may operate or receive supplies between 11.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m.

(2) No sound systems may operate between 11.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m. in open-air zones of restaurants and entertainment facilities located in residential areas or resorts.

Chapter Five

CONTROL

Section I

General conditions

Article 17

(Amended SG No 41/2009, effective 2.06.2009, SG No. 98/2010, effective 1.01.2011)

The Minister of Health, the directors of the Regional Health inspectorates and the state health inspectors determined by the Health Act shall control environmental noise emitted by local noise sources, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Health Act.

Article 18

The Minister of Environment and Water, RIEW directors or officials authorized thereof shall exercise preventive, continuous and subsequent control over the industrial installations and facilities, including the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act.

Article 19

The Minister of Interior shall, via units designated thereof, exercise control over road vehicles using the public roads with respect to the environmental noise they emit in accordance with the Road Traffic Act and the secondary legislation for its implementation.

Article 20

(1) The Minister of Transport shall, via units designated thereof, exercise control over:

1. aircraft and rail vehicles with respect to the environmental noise they emit;

2. state of repair and approval of the types of new motor vehicles with respect to environmental noise they emit in accordance with the Road Traffic Act and the secondary legislation for its implementation;

3. major airports with respect to the environmental noise they emit.

(2) The control over environmental noise emitted by major airports shall be regulated with a regulation issued by the Minister of Transport.

Article 21

(Amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014)

The Minister of Regional Development and Public Works or officials authorised thereof shall exercise preventive, continuous and subsequent control over noise protection considerations in the design and performance of construction work in accordance with the Spatial Development Act.

Article 22

(1) Municipality mayors or officials authorised thereof:

1. shall monitor for the compliance with the rules and norms for construction work with respect to noise emitted by such work;
2. shall monitor for compliance with the provisions of this act in quiet areas and urbanised areas;
3. shall organise and regulate road traffic in populated areas with a view to decreasing noise levels to the admissible values;
4. (new, SG No. 41/2009, effective 2.06.2009) shall monitor for the compliance with the requirements of Article 16a.

(2) Where measurements of noise levels are required, the control referred to in Paragraph 1, item 1 shall be exercised jointly with the regional authorities of the Ministry of Health.

Article 23

The executive bodies and their subordinated administrative units, the organizations, natural persons, legal entities, and sole proprietors shall assist the controlling authorities in the implementation of this Act.

Article 24

The controlling authorities shall issue acts for administrative violations established during monitoring.

Section II Preventive Control

Article 25

Preventive control shall be exercised through the procedures for environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment, through the issue of permits pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act, as well as through coordination and authorisation procedures pursuant to the Health Act and the Spatial Development Act.

Article 26

(1) The objective of preventive control is to prevent the emission of different types of environmental noise exceeding the limit values determined by the regulation referred to in Article 11, item 5.

(2) In performance of their functions and with a view to achieving the objective of preventive control, the authorities referred to in Articles 17 through 21 shall issue warnings to natural persons, managing bodies of legal entities and sole proprietors which are subject to control.

(3) The warnings referred to in Paragraph 2 shall contain a statement of facts or circumstances which might lead to emission of different types of environmental noise above the limit values, as well as recommendations for prevention of such facts or circumstances.

(4) The recommendations referred to in Paragraph 3 shall be binding for the inspected party.

Section III Continuous and Subsequent Control

Article 27

(1) Continuous control shall include:

1. control over the sources of environmental noise;

2. control for compliance with the conditions set in the integrated permits issued by the competent authorities and other documents related to the procedures for emission of environmental noise referred to in Article 25.

(2) Continuous control shall be exercised through inspections, monitoring and measurements.

(3) Continuous control shall include access to:

1. data from the self-monitoring for environmental noise emitted from the operation of natural persons and legal entities;

2. information on the activities of legal entities and sole proprietors which lead to the emission of environmental noise;

3. operation-related property and facilities which emit noise, irrespective of the form of ownership.

Article 28

(1) In the process of continuous control the officials designated by the authorities referred to in Articles 17 through 21 shall issue statements of findings or acts.

(2) The statements referred to in Paragraph 1 shall contain the findings and circumstances and shall make binding recommendations, the deadlines and the persons responsible for their implementation.

Article 29

Subsequent control shall be exercised by follow-up of:

1. the outcome from the implementation of measures envisaged in the action plans referred to in Chapter Two;

2. the implementation of recommendations made by the controlling officials during the process of preventive and continuous control.

Chapter Six

COMPULSORY ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

Section I

Compulsory Administrative Measures

Article 30

With a view to preventing and discontinuing administrative violations under this Act and their harmful consequences, the competent authorities or officials authorised thereof shall impose compulsory administrative measures pursuant to Article 31.

Article 31

(1) (Amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) The Minister of Health, the Minister of Environment and Water, the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works and municipality mayors or officials authorised thereof, may, in accordance with their powers:

1. recommend measures with a view to removing the established violations;

2. decommission industrial installations and facilities, including the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act, and local noise sources where the requirements of this Act have been violated.

(2) The decommissioning referred to in Paragraph 1, item 2 shall be effected with an order issued by the authorities referred to in Paragraph 1 and shall be in force until removal of the circumstance which lead to imposition of the compulsory administrative measure.

Article 32

(Amended, SG No. 30/2006)

The order referred to in Article 31, Paragraph 2 may be appealed pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Code.

Section II **Administrative Violations and Sanctions**

Article 33

(1) For violations of this Act which do not constitute a crime officials shall be sanctioned with fines ranging between BGN 100 and BGN 300.

(2) For violations of this Act which do not constitute a crime natural persons shall be sanctioned with fines ranging between BGN 100 and BGN 300, while legal entities and sole proprietors shall be imposed property sanctions ranging between BGN 200 and BGN 2000.

(3) In case of a repeated violation under Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 2, natural persons and officials shall be sanctioned with fines ranging between BGN 500 and BGN 1000, and legal entities and sole proprietors shall be imposed property sanctions ranging between BGN 2000 and BGN 5000.

Article 34

(1) For violations of this Act related to exceeding the noise limit values, natural persons shall be sanctioned with fines ranging between BGN 500 and BGN 1000, and legal entities and sole proprietors shall be imposed property sanctions ranging between BGN 1000 and BGN 3000.

(2) In case of a repeated violation under Paragraph 1 natural persons shall be sanctioned with fines ranging between BGN 2000 and BGN 6000, and legal entities and sole proprietors shall be imposed property sanctions ranging between BGN 4000 and BGN 10 000.

Article 35

The sanctions referred to in Article 33 shall also be imposed on persons which:

1. do not provide to the controlling authorities the available self-monitoring data and information;

2. do not follow the recommendations made in the individual administrative acts and in the statements referred to in Article 28, Paragraph 1, issued by the competent authorities or by officials authorised thereof.

Article 36

The acts establishing administrative violations pursuant to this Act shall be issued by officials designated by the competent authorities referred to in Articles 17 through 21.

Article 37

Penal decrees pursuant to this Act shall be issued in accordance with the Administrative Violations and Sanctions Act and shall be issued by the competent authorities referred to in Article 17 - 21.

The fines and property sanctions collected under this Act, as imposed by the authorities referred to in Article 18, shall be remitted to the Enterprise for Management of Environmental Protection Activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS (Title amended, SG No. 12/2017)

§ 1. For the purposes of this Act:

1. "Environmental noise" shall mean unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities, including noise emitted by means of transport, road traffic, rail traffic, water traffic and air traffic, and by industrial installations and facilities, including the categories of industrial activities referred to in Appendix No. 4 to Article 117, Paragraph 1 of the Environmental Protection Act, and by local noise sources.
2. "Harmful effects" shall mean negative effects on human health.
3. "Annoyance" shall mean the degree of environmental noise annoyance as determined by means of field surveys.
4. "Local noise sources" shall mean commercial outlets, entertainment establishments, service centres, etc., located in an area defined as urbanized pursuant to the Spatial Development Act.
5. "Noise indicator" shall mean a physical quantity used to determine environmental noise with relation to a specific harmful effect.
6. "Assessment" shall mean any method used to calculate or predict the impact of a noise indicator or the related harmful effects on the environment and on human health.
7. "Agglomeration" shall mean a populated area having a population in excess of 100000 persons or define an urbanised area pursuant to the Spatial Development Act.
8. "Quiet area in an urbanised area" shall mean part of an area where noise indicators may not exceed the limit values.
9. "Quiet area in open country" shall mean an area which may not be disturbed by noise from traffic, industry or recreational activities
10. "Major road" shall mean a national road which has more than three million vehicle passages a year.
11. "Major railway" shall mean a railway which has more than 30000 train passages per year.
12. "Major airport" shall mean a civil airport for public use - international and domestic flights, which has more than 50000 take-offs or landings per year, excluding those purely for training purposes on light aircraft
13. "Noise mapping" shall mean the presentation of data on an existing or predicted noise situation in terms of noise indicators, indicating breaches of any relevant limit value in force, the number of people affected in a certain area, or the number of dwellings exposed to certain values of a noise indicator in a certain area.
14. "Strategic noise map" shall mean a map designed for the global assessment of noise exposure in a given area due to different noise sources or for overall predictions for such an area.
15. "Current noise status" shall mean the status during the calendar year preceding the strategic map development.
16. "Action plans" shall mean plans designed to manage environmental noise, including noise reduction if necessary.

17. "Acoustical planning" shall mean controlling future noise by planned measures, such as land-use planning, systems engineering for traffic, traffic planning, as well as abatement by sound-insulation measures and noise control of sources.

18. "Limit value" shall mean a noise indicator value, the exceeding of which causes competent authorities to consider and enforce noise mitigation measures.

19. "Measures" shall mean certain organisational, economic or technical solutions for prevention and reduction of environmental noise, which shall not include a specific technology, model, trade mark, patent, type, origin or production.

20. "Noise in the area of hostilities" shall mean noise caused by civilian activities in such areas.

21. "Repeated violation" shall mean a violation committed within one year of the coming into force of the penal decree with which the offender was sanctioned for the same type of violation.

§ 1a. (New, SG No. 12/2017) This Act implements the requirements of Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (OJ, L 189/12 of 18 July 2002).

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 2. The strategic noise maps referred to in Article 4 shall be approved:

1. for all agglomerations with more than 250000 inhabitants and for all major roads which have more than six million vehicle passages a year, major railways which have more than 60000 train passages per year and major airports within the territory of the country - no later than 30 June 2007;

2. for all other agglomerations, major roads and major railways - no later than 30 June 2012;

3. (new, SG No. 12/2017) for all agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports in Bulgaria – by 30 June of each subsequent five-year period, as of the expiry of the deadlines referred to in items 1 and 2.

§ 3. The strategic noise maps referred to in Article 4 shall be submitted to the Minister of Health and to the Minister of Environment and Water by the authorities referred to in Article 5, Paragraph 1:

1. for all agglomerations with more than 250000 inhabitants and for all major roads which have more than six million vehicle passages a year, major railways which have more than 60000 train passages per year and major airports within the territory of the country - no later than 30 September 2007;

2. for all other agglomerations, major roads and major railways - no later than 30 September 2012;

3. (new, SG No. 12/2017) for all agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports in Bulgaria – by 30 September of each subsequent five-year period, as of the expiry of the deadlines referred to in items 1 and 2.

§ 4. The action plans referred to in Article 6 shall be approved:

1. for all agglomerations with more than 250000 inhabitants and for regions in proximity to major roads which have more than six million vehicle passages a year, major railways which have more than 60000 train passages per year and major airports within the territory of the country - no later than 18 July 2008;

2. for all other agglomerations, major roads and major railways - no later than 18 July 2013;

3. (new, SG No. 12/2017) for all agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports in Bulgaria – by 18 July of each subsequent five-year period, as of the expiry of the deadlines referred to in items 1 and 2.

§ 5. The action plans referred to in Article 6 shall be submitted to the Minister of Health and to the Minister of Environment and Water by the authorities referred to in Article 8:

1. for all agglomerations with more than 250000 inhabitants and for all major roads which have more than six million vehicle passages a year, major railways which have more than 60000 train passages per year and major airports within the territory of the country - no later than 31 October 2008;

2. for all other agglomerations, major roads and major railways - no later than 31 October 2013;

3. (new, SG No. 12/2017) for all agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports in Bulgaria – by 31 October of each subsequent five-year period, as of the expiry of the deadlines referred to in items 1 and 2.

§ 6. (Supplemented, SG No. 12/2017) Agglomerations, major railways, major roads and major airports referred to in § 2, item 1 shall be determined by the respective competent authorities no later than two months after the coming into force of this Act, and those referred to in § 2, item 2 - no later than 31 October 2008. After the expiry of the deadlines referred to in the first sentence – each year by the end of February.

§ 7. No later than two years after the coming into force of this Act the competent authorities shall provide the necessary measuring devices for its control activities.

§ 8. The following amendments shall be made to the Environmental Protection Act (promulgated, SG No. 91/2002, amended, SG No. 98/2002, amended, SG No. 86/2003, SG No. 70/2004):

1. In Article 146, Paragraph 1, a comma shall be placed after the words "the Subsoil Resources Act" and the words "the Protection from Environmental Noise Act" shall be added.

2. In Article 147:

a) In Paragraph 1, a comma shall be placed after the words "National Environmental Monitoring System" and the words "with the exception of the national system for noise monitoring in urbanised areas" shall be added;

b) In Paragraph 2, a comma shall be placed after the words "National Automated System for Environmental Monitoring" and the words "with the exception of the national system for noise monitoring in urbanised areas" shall be added;

c) In Paragraph 4, a comma shall be placed after the words "monitoring activity" and the words "with the exception of noise monitoring in urbanised areas" shall be added.

§ 9. The regulation referred to in Article 11, item 7 shall be issued no later than one month after the coming into force of this Act.

§ 10. The regulations referred to in Article 7 and Article 11, items 5 and 6 shall be issued within three months after the coming into force of this Act.

§ 11. The regulations referred to in Article 14, item 3 и Article 20, Paragraph 2 shall be issued within one year after the coming into force of this Act.

§ 12. The implementation of this Act is assigned to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment and Water.

§ 13. This Act shall become effective as of 1 January 2006.

This Act was adopted by the 40th National Assembly on 31 August 2005 and is sealed with the official seal of the National Assembly.