



March 23, 2016

Docket Operations, M-30
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140
West Building Ground Floor
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Subject: Docket Number FAA-2015-3782, "Stage 5 Airplane Noise Standards"

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Los Angeles International Airport/Community Noise Roundtable (Roundtable) is a voluntary independent body whose membership consists of local elected officials, representatives of congressional offices, members of recognized community groups, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the airlines, and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). These parties work collaboratively to identify noise issues that affect the residential communities surrounding Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and to seek feasible solutions to reduce aircraft noise in those affected communities.

In response to the FAA's request for public comments on a proposed regulation that would implement a Stage 5 noise standard for new aircraft operating in the United States, the Roundtable would like to provide input as follows:

The Roundtable understands that the Stage 5 noise standard is cumulatively 17 dB lower than Stage 3 noise levels and 7 dB lower than Stage 4 noise levels. The proposed regulation would require new large subsonic jet aircraft with a maximum takeoff weight of 121,254 lbs. or greater to comply with the new noise limits by December 31, 2017; while new regional jet and turboprop aircraft with a maximum takeoff weight of less than 121,254 lbs. would need to comply with the new standard by December 31, 2020. If promulgated, the new regulation would ensure that the noise from new airplanes continues to decline but would not restrict the use of existing Stage 3 and Stage 4 aircraft that are in operation today.

Based on this information, the Roundtable supports this measure as it will help reduce aircraft noise in the future as new aircraft designs would need to comply with more stringent noise standards. Many modern aircraft operating today, such as the A380 and the B787, already meet the Stage 5 requirements so there are no expected negative impacts associated with implementing this new standard. Implementation of this proposal also ensures the U.S. noise standards are consistent with the ICAO noise standards.

While employing the latest noise standards for new aircraft designs will help reduce the noise footprint for future aircraft operations, it will not, however, reduce noise from current operations that adversely affect residential communities. The retirement of noisy Stage 2 commercial aircraft over 75,000 lbs. by December 31, 1999 was a very important step in aircraft noise reduction. The more recent phase out of Stage 2 aircraft under 75,000 lbs. by December 31, 2015 provided additional relief for many communities. The next logical step, in the view of the Roundtable, is to phase out the existing Stage 3 aircraft in conjunction with the adoption of the new Stage 5 noise standard. This action would effect a noticeable reduction in aircraft noise in a shorter and more meaningful timeframe. Therefore the Roundtable urges the FAA to include a phase-out schedule for Stage 3 aircraft as part of this proposed regulation to help reduce the overall noise exposure for residential communities.

The primary objective of the Roundtable is to seek ways to reduce noise impacts on people residing near the airport. This proposed regulation has great potential to provide substantial noise relief for these residential communities, but only if this more stringent noise standard is adopted with an added or subsequent action to phase out existing Stage 3 aircraft. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

The position stated in this letter is the opinion of the majority of the Roundtable's membership and does not represent the official position of the FAA, the City of Los Angeles, or LAWA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denny Schneider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Denny Schneider, Chairman
LAX/Community Noise Roundtable

cc: Roundtable Members