



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: Program Guidance Letter 85-2

Date: Aug 30 1985

From: 
Lowell H. Johnson
Manager, Grants-in-Aid Division, APP-500

Reply to
Attn. of:

To: PGL Distribution List

85-2.1 Deletion of Air Conditioning from "Basic" Noise Attenuation Package - Bob Yatzeck (426-3857). Attached is a revised paragraph 711, Residential Noise Attenuation Proposal Evaluation, of Order 5100.38. This revision will appear in the next change to the order, however, we wanted to bring it to your attention at this time. The reference to central air conditioning in subparagraph 711b. has been replaced by "central air ventilation system." We no longer endorse the automatic inclusion of central air conditioning in the "basic" residential noise attenuation package for the following reasons:

1. A central air conditioning system may impose an operational cost burden that many recipients are unable to bear;
2. The basic aim of a noise compatibility effort should be to assure adequate exchange of air in a closed-window environment; and
3. Providing temperature comfort is not directly related to noise compatibility.

What literature is available on the subject seems to support the idea that central air conditioning should not be considered an integral part of a residential noise attenuation project. Exceptions will continue to be considered inasmuch as projects proceed from locally developed noise compatibility programs. As stated in subparagraph 711.b., however, APP-500 should be consulted concerning eligibility of measures beyond those listed in the paragraph.

Attachment

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b. Responsibility for Operation and Maintenance of Items Installed. The purpose of requiring item 2 of the special condition is to indicate that the responsibility for maintenance and operation of the noise items lies with the private property owner, not to require such operation and maintenance. In the case where the private property is a parochial school, for example, this condition should not be construed to mean the private property owner is obligated to operate the facility as a school for the useful life of the noise compatibility measures. It should generally be understood, however, that only those buildings be proposed for soundproofing that can reasonably be expected to be used for a period of time meeting or exceeding the useful life of the noise compatibility measures.

708. EASEMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH SOUNDPROOFING. Avigation or noise easements will not be required by the FAA in conjunction with grants for soundproofing public or private buildings or private residences. The effect of such a requirement would be to compel a property owner to give up, via donation, property rights it holds in exchange for funds to soundproof a building. However, an easement can be acquired from the property owner on a voluntary basis when such acquisition is initiated by the sponsor exclusive of FAA grant stipulations. FAA policy is to encourage consideration of easements in the development of noise compatibility programs. In this way, their eligibility is established and major problems associated with their acquisition can be resolved during the coordination process that takes place in development of the noise compatibility program. Only in the instance when an easement is acquired with Federal funds is it subject to the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

709. SPECIAL CONDITION FOR LAND ACQUISITION. Section 511(a)(13) of the AAIA imposes certain requirements on sponsors receiving grants for the purchase of land for noise compatibility purposes which is conditioned on the disposal of the acquired land. The special condition in appendix 9, paragraph 9, shall be used in grants that include such land acquisition.

710. PROGRAM INCOME/AIRPORT REVENUE. In some noise compatibility projects, sponsors will acquire property which produces a net revenue. See Chapter 6 for program income and airport revenue.

711. RESIDENTIAL NOISE ATTENUATION PROPOSAL EVALUATION. In evaluating project proposals which include noise attenuation of residences, the following guidelines should be considered:

a. A 45dB(A)-48dB(A) interior noise level is considered a reasonable objective. Therefore, Federal assistance will not be provided to achieve interior noise levels below 45dB(A).

b. A total noise reduction from exterior noise levels to interior levels of 25-30dB(A) usually can be achieved with some combination of storm windows, solid-core exterior doors, ceiling insulation, caulking, weatherstripping, and central air ventilation system. Therefore, project eligibility of residential noise attenuation will normally be limited to these measures plus "before and after" single event noise testing. APP-500 should be consulted for measures beyond those listed above.