

The revised Sound and Laser Policy for Switzerland

The revised Sound and Laser Policy, which controls the regulations regarding volume levels during events, comes as of 1st May 2007 into effect.

This means that you as the event organiser and we as your technical service provider are legally bound to certain conditions regarding the recording and observation of the new guidelines.

Events are essentially divided into four categories, based on the maximum volume levels:

Max. Volume Level* Duration	Prescribed Measures
93dB (A) Indefinite	<p>None</p> <p>Despite this, we still recommend that the volume level is measured, so that it is always possible to prove that the regulations are being adhered to.</p> <p>Note: It is not permitted to exceed these levels during events for children and young people under 16Jh.</p>
93 – 96dB (A) Indefinite	<p>Report Compulsory!** The volume level may not exceed 96dB(A).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clearly visible signs in the entrance area stating: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the maximum volume level of 96dB(A) b. the dangers of hearing damage due to high volume levels and the increase of these dangers with the duration of the exposure 2) Free distribution of hearing protection (earplugs) 3) A maximum level L_{AFmax} of 125dB(A) over the total duration of the performance may not be exceeded! 4) The volume levels during the performance must be watched over using a volume level measuring instrument (A-rated L_{eq} reading)
96 – 100dB (A) Up to 3 hours	<p>Report Compulsory!** The volume level may not exceed 100dB(A).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clearly visible signs in the entrance area stating: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the maximum volume level of 100dB(A) b. the dangers of hearing damage due to high volume levels and the increase of these dangers with the duration of the exposure 2) Free distribution of hearing protection (earplugs) 3) A maximum level L_{AFmax} of 125dB(A) over the total duration of the performance may not be exceeded! 4) The volume levels during the performance must be watched over using a volume level measuring instrument (A-rated L_{eq} reading)



<p>96 – 100dB (A) <i>Longer than 3 hours</i></p>	<p>As above, but additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The volume level (L_{eq}) must be recorded every five minutes. This data must be electronically registered and kept on file for 30 days, together with details of the measuring point and the level difference between measuring point and the recording point. • A “Compensation Zone” must be provided for the audience. This must be <u>clearly</u> signposted in the entrance area! <p>Compensation Zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may not exceed the volume level of 85dB(A) - must cover an area of at least 10% of the audience space. - must be clearly signposted and easily accessible to the audience during the entire performance.
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Recording procedure:

The volume emissions must be determined at ear level in the place in the audience where they are highest (measuring point). Should the measuring point differ from the recording point (i.e. measurements are taken at the sound desk), then a measurement of the difference in levels between these points (pink noise) must be taken and documented. This recording procedure should be carried out /identically for concerts and dance performances.

*Technical Definition of “Volume Level”:

Volume level is defined as the average level L_{eq} in db(A) measured over a period of 60 minutes. (equivalent constant volume level).

Cheap instruments sold for public retail only measure a momentary value, not an average. Specialised measuring systems are therefore necessary to obtain the correct values.

L_{AFmax} is defined as a A-rated measurement with a time constant of 125ms (Fast)

smARTEc offers various solutions. We are happy to advise you.

**Report Compulsory:

It is now compulsory to report all events with volume levels above 93dB(A) and the event organiser must inform the appropriate authorities at least 14 days prior to the event. The appropriate documentation for reporting events, as well as a list of the relevant authorities for each county (Kanton), is available on our website.

This information leaflet is a shortened version of the provisional publication of the Swiss Federal Sound and Laser Policy from 01.03.2007. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of this information. In every case, the official version of the Sound and Laser Policy is to be consulted.

