

City of Seattle – First Noise Code to Silence those Beepers

The City of Seattle is the first US city to provide a constructive solution to the conflict between maintaining safety during nite time operations and back-up beepers disturbing neighborhoods. The City now has a Noise Variance requiring trucks and mobile plant



to have either a spotter or broadband back-up alarm; so trucks can back-up safely without being a nuisance. In a request to confirmation of this move David George, from the City of Seattle, wrote "Your back-alarms are a great answer to complaints from citizens who want to know why they have to be aware someone is backing up 500 feet from their bedroom at 5 AM. Good question, and the broadband alarm is the answer at this time."

Extract from Noise Variance.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

4. No pure tone backup-warning devices after

10:00 PM and before 7:00 AM, the contractor shall use a back observer (cannot be a flagger, see WAC 296-155-610(2)(f)(ii)) in lieu of backup warning devices. "Broadband" type backup-warning devices may be used between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM.



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Beepers Cause Confusion

The nature of pure tone back-up alarms (beep...beep...beep) means that confusion as to where the sound is coming from can often arise. This can arise as a result of reflections of the sound off the ground or vehicles and the very nature of wave pressure differences in tonal alarms. This confusion is not possible with Broadband Sound alarms as they operate over a wider range of frequencies and a greater variation in wavelengths.

