

# **Model Noise Bylaw for Audible Bird Scare Devices in Interior British Columbia**

## **1. Definitions<sup>i</sup>**

In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

**Category ‘A’ bird  
scare device**

shall mean a stationary bird scare device that creates an impulse sound. Impulse sound is from impacts or explosions. Propane fueled exploders or cannons are examples of Category ‘A’ devices. Firearms and shell launchers such as orchard pistols are not included.

**Category ‘B’ bird  
scare device**

shall mean a bird scare device that is any other stationary device, not in Category ‘A’, which generates sounds to scare or disturb birds. Examples are devices that broadcast birdcalls or other sounds through loudspeakers. Firearms and shell launchers are not included.

**Activation**

shall mean multiple shots from an audible bird scare devices are considered as one activation if they occur in less than a 30-second period.

## **2. Noisemakers for crop protection:**

1. The use of audible bird scare devices for crop protection is not permitted unless:
  - 1.1 The device is only operated from:
    - 1.1.1 one half hour before sunrise to 7:00 p.m. or
    - 1.1.2 One half hour before sunrise to sunset.Whichever is of lesser duration;
  - 1.2 The device is operated between May 15 and November 15;
  - 1.3 The device is relocated on a frequent basis to maintain effectiveness;
  - 1.4 The device is used a part of a grower prepared management plan which includes monitoring of bird activity and crop damage, strategies to minimize device use and bird habituation to devices, and device maintenance and strategies to minimize the impact of device malfunction.
  - 1.5 The device is located in a manner to minimize the impact on adjacent dwelling units as defined in the “[local government zoning bylaw reference]”;

2. In addition to subsection 1, Category ‘A’ bird scare devices are not permitted unless:
  - 2.1 The device has a maximum firing frequency of one firing per 5 minutes for single shot devices and a maximum of 11 activations or 33 shots in any hour for a multiple-shot device;
  
3. In addition to subsection 1, Category ‘B’ bird scare devices are not permitted unless:
  - 3.1 The device is operated on an intermittent basis so that the sound is not continuous;

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<sup>i</sup> The definitions are drawn or adapted from the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, ‘Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas’, *BC Assessment Act*, and various existing local government bylaws.