

Introduction to the Italian legislation as example of regulations on environmental noise

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The pathway of the Italian legislation on environmental noise

Some elements have been present even in the penal and civil codes and in the legislation for public security: the aim was to defend the public quiet.

The pathway of the Italian legislation on environmental noise

1. Decree of the President of Ministries Council (DPCM) 01/03/91;
2. Noise framework legislation 26/10/95, n. 447;
3. Decrees related to the Noise framework legislation 26/10/95, n. 447.

More than 17 years....

Decree of the President of Ministries Council (DPCM) 01/03/91

The decree establishes the maximum limits of exposure to the noise in inhabited areas and outdoor and takes into account:

- Acoustic zoning;
- Differential criteria;
- Reclamation planning;
- Forecasting of noise impact.

Noise framework legislation 26/10/95, n. 447

The aim of the law is the explanation of the main aspects regarding the protection from noise pollution in the outdoor and indoor environment.

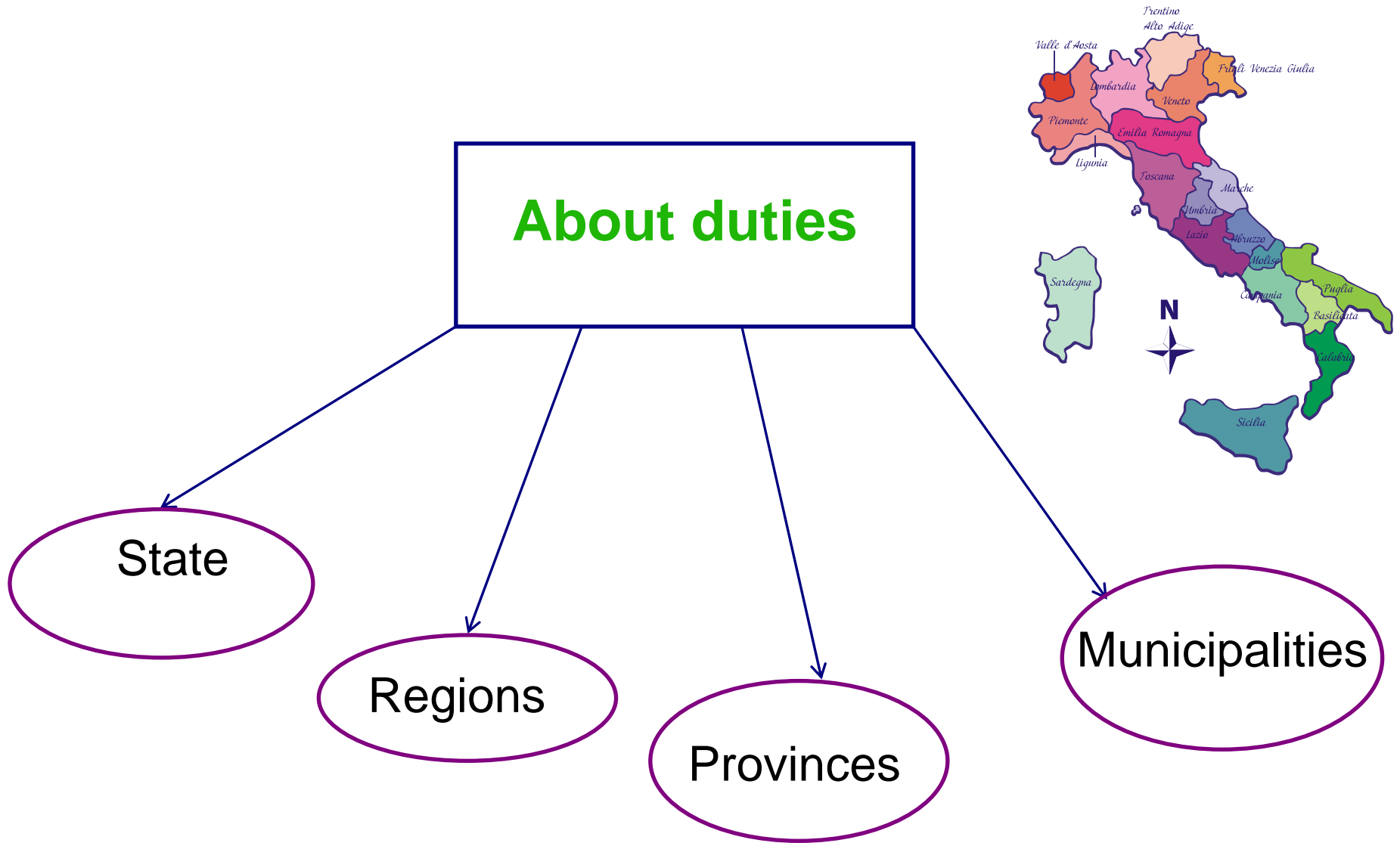
Which are the objectives of the law?

- Limits;
- Duties;
- Acoustic zoning;
- Acoustic reclamation planning;
- Measures on acoustic impacts;
- Introduction to specific regulations;
- Measures for the acoustic emission limitations;
- Expert on acoustic.

About limits

In the Noise framework legislation 26/10/95, n. 447, art.2, are introduced the following items:

- definitions of fixed and mobile sonorous sources;
- emission values;
- immission values;
- attention values;
- quality values.



Acoustic zoning

The acoustic zoning has to be carried out by the Municipalities: the noise framework law asks for it as a tool which defines a correlation between the acoustic limits according to the different uses of the territory and it is the first step to the environment protection from acoustic pollution.

It has to be done according to six different classes which take into account the following parameters:

- Population density;
- Presence and kind of road and rail traffic;
- Presence and entity of commercial, craft or industrial activity;
- Presence of sensitive receivers.

Acoustic zoning

The classification goes from the first class for protected areas to sixth class for industrial areas.

Acoustic zoning is a territorial government technical and political act which aims to control the territory and to manage the uses of activities which are developed in. It has to think as a political tool for the development of the territory.

Noise abatement plans

They are one of the duties of the municipalities and must contain:

- the location and entity of the source of noise, which have to be reclaimed;
- the responsible of action of reclamation;
- the priority, the instructions and times of actions;
- cost expectation and necessary means;
- any urgent measures for environment and public health preservation.

Measures on acoustic impacts

An environmental impact assessment must be carried on for the building up, modification or optimization of the followings:

- Airports;
- Roads;
- Discotheques;
- Other noise buidings;
- Sports complex;
- Railroads

Measures on acoustic impacts

A provisional evaluation of the acoustic climate must be carried on for the followings:

- Schools and nurseries;
- Hospitals;
- Public parks and gardens;
- New settlements close to the airports, roads, discotheques, sports complex.....

Introduction to specific regulations

According to the criteria of the law in a year must be promulgated regulations in order to manage the different noise sources as:

- Road traffic;
- Air traffic;
- Rail traffic;
- Maritime traffic.

Introduction to specific regulations

For now the following noise sources or activities already legislated are:

- Roads;
- Railways;
- Airports;
- Industrial plants;
- Motor racing tracks.

Introduction to specific regulations

We are still waiting specific regulations for:

- Harbours;
- Anti-theft device.

Measures for the acoustic emission limitations

The established measures are administrative, technical, about building techniques and for the management:

- Rules about acceptable acoustic limits, measure method, rules for building up;
- Measures for testing, homologation and certification which prove the conformity to the rules about acceptable acoustic limits;
- Operations for noise reduction, passive and active, both in the emission area and over the noise propagation way;

Measures for the acoustic emission limitations

- Planning for urban transportation and for urban traffic;
- Urbanistic planning.

If there is any special or urgent need for both public health protection as environment protection the reference Authority can order special actions (Ordinance) for acoustic emission reduction including the partial or total prohibition of some noising activities.

Regarding the measures for the acoustic emission limitations in the noise framework legislation 26/10/95, n. 447 administrative **sanctions** are established in the following cases:

- When the emission limits are exceeded;
- If the required documentations for noise buildings or infrastructures (airports, roads, discotheques, other noise buildings, sports complex, railroads) are not complete.

70% of the money of the sanctions are devolved by the State to the Italian Municipalities for noise abatement plans.

Moreover each Infrastructure Managing Company must pay, yearly, 5% of the budget fund of the management and development for the adoption of abatement plans.