§ 1041. Definitions.

(a) "Exhaust system" means all pipes, converters, and chambers through which the exhaust gas flows from the engine exhaust manifold outlet flang to the end of the tailpipe.

(b) "Microphone line" means an unmarked reference line running parallel to the vehicle path and passing through the microphone.

(c) "Microphone target point" means the unmarked location on the center of the lane of travel that is the closest to the microphone.

(d) For the purpose of this article, the terms "sound" and "noise" are synonymous.


(a) Heavy Trucks. New motor vehicles with a manufacturer's GVWR of more than 4,537 kg (10,000 pounds) subject to 40 CFR, Part 205, shall be tested in accordance with procedures established in that regulation.

(b) Other Heavy Vehicles. New motor vehicles with a manufacturer's GVWR of more than 4,537 kg (10,000 pounds) that are not subject to 40 CFR, Part 205, except transit buses equipped
with automatic transmissions, shall be tested in accordance with SAE J366b, July 6
September 2011, which, excluding the Appendix, is hereby incorporated by reference, or SAE J2805, May 2020, which is hereby incorporated by reference. Transit buses with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of more than 4,537 kg (10,000 pounds) equipped with automatic transmissions shall be tested according to SAE J366b, September 2011, except for Section 4.15.1 of that standard which shall be replaced with the following procedure.

(1) Face the vehicle in the direction opposite that to be used for the noise test, position the reference point (Section 3.7.4.7) at the mid-point of the end zone within 0.3 m (1.0 ft), place the gear selector in the position normally used for driving, and locate the starting point for the noise test as follows:

(A) Accelerate the vehicle as rapidly as possible by establishing and maintaining wide open throttle until the first transmission shift occurs.

(B) Mark as the designated starting point, the location along the test path where the vehicle reference point is passing when the shift occurs.

(2) Perform the noise test by reversing the vehicle direction, positioning the vehicle so it is at rest with the vehicle reference point at the designated starting point, and operating the vehicle as follows:

(A) Accelerate the vehicle as rapidly as possible by establishing wide open throttle.

(B) Continue acceleration until the entire vehicle has vacated the end zone, recording only runs in which the first transmission shift occurs in the end zone.

(c) Light Vehicles. New motor vehicles with a manufacturer's GVWR of 4,537 kg (10,000 pounds) or less shall be tested in accordance with either any of the following methods, at the manufacturer's option: SAE J986, November 1986 or SAE J1470, March 1992, August 2018, which is hereby incorporated by reference, except that the provisions of Section 6.57.5 shall not apply, or SAE J2805, May 2020.

(d) Motorcycles. New motorcycles subject to 40 CFR, Part 205, shall be tested in accordance with procedures established in that regulation. Other new motorcycles shall be tested in accordance with SAE J331a, July 1978/2020, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

(e) Snowmobiles. New snowmobiles shall be tested in accordance with SAE J192, April 1980 March 2021, which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding the sound level tolerances in Section 6.46.1.