



ILLEGAL MODIFICATION OF CAR EXHAUST SYSTEMS!©

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – March 6, 2024

Throughout our immediate area here in Central Florida, it is evident that thousands of cars have illegally-modified exhaust systems that make excessive noise! It seems that in the minds of the owners of these cars, the thought is that "if my car makes more noise due to an open exhaust, it surely must go faster"! Such "race car-driver mentality", seems to prevail amongst those who install "stove-pipe/tin can" mufflers – on whatever car they may possess – even on their so-called "family sedans" that were never meant to be representative of race cars!! These individuals seem to have no consideration at all that the noise from their vehicles is disturbing the domestic tranquility and, in fact they are in violation of Florida statutes! It seems this lot is either completely ignorant of the law or maybe they think our laws don't apply to them!? Sadly enough, there appears to be zero enforcement of applicable noise laws by local authorities.

Florida State Statute Sec. 316.293 Motor Vehicle Noise (quotes):

(2) OPERATING NOISE LIMITS.—No person shall operate or be permitted to operate a vehicle at any time or under any condition of roadway grade, load, acceleration, or deceleration in such a manner as to generate a sound level in excess of the following limit for the category of motor vehicle and applicable speed limit at a distance of 50 feet from the center of the lane of travel under measurement procedures established under subsection (3).

(Relative to statement (2): the noise level of vehicles traveling less than 35 MPH must not exceed 72 decibels (dB's) and at speeds above 35 MPH must not exceed 79 dB's. Some comparative noise levels are: refrigerator 60-70, toilet flush 75, heavy traffic 80, and lawn mower 80-85.)

(5) NOISE ABATEMENT EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS.—

- (a) No person shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle or any other noise-abatement device of a motor vehicle operated or to be operated upon the highways of this state in such a manner that the noise emitted by the motor vehicle is above that emitted by the vehicle as originally manufactured.
- (b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon the highways of the state with an exhaust system or noise-abatement device so modified.

It is readily apparent that today a very large number of vehicles on our roadways are routinely far exceeding the noted legal noise limits & it's now a long overdue time to address this matter by issuing multiple citations with fines & "fix it" tickets to each and every offender! What's the holdup?