



IS AEROBATICS A NOISY ACTIVITY?

FACT SHEET #3 - version 1.0

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FACT #1: THE MAXIMUM NOISE LEVEL PRODUCED BY AEROBATICS IS LOW

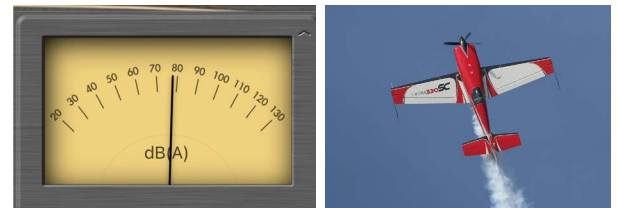
Aerobatics can be perceived as annoying for some people because, by definition, noise tolerance is totally subjective and individual. The particularities of aerobatics practice are the variations of speed and positions, which generate different sound amplitudes.

The autonomy of aerobatic aircraft being limited, aerobatics is therefore by necessity often practiced near airfields. Aerobatic flights are therefore short, typically lasting about 15 to 20 minutes. Exceptional noise peaks, measured on the ground, reach a maximum of 77dB (which is considered moderaté); a flight generates an average of 50-65 dB on the ground. The noise impact on the neighborhood may be perceived by some sensitive people, but it is in fact very limited in time and intensity.

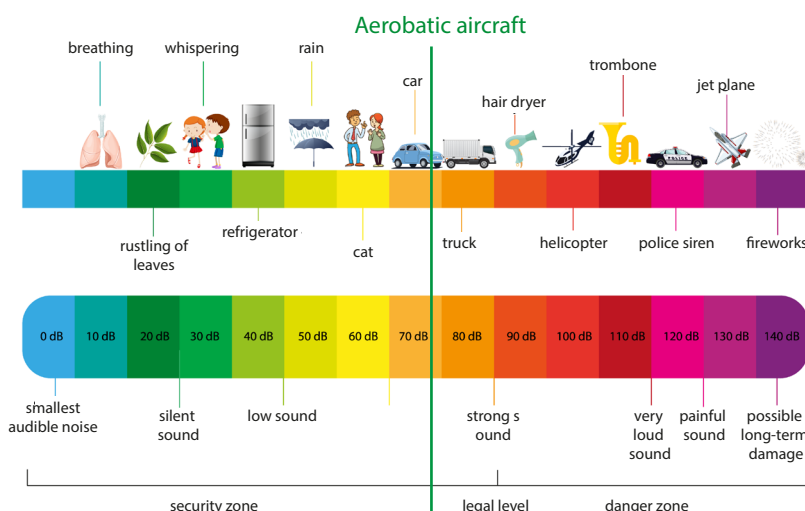
In addition, the practice of aerobatics is dependent on good weather conditions. This fact restricts the practice of this sport. This implies that people practicing outdoor activities will also take advantage of these good conditions to perform their own activities; this conjunction may give rise to or increase subjective feelings of repetition of flights or exaggerated duration.

77dB

Maximum FOCA noise level of the loudest aerobatic aircraft type approved in Switzerland (Extra 330 SC)



FACT #2: THE DAYS WHERE AEROBATICS IS PRACTICED INTENSIVELY REMAIN EXCEPTIONAL



In the vicinity of an airfield, noise generation is not only due to aerobatics, but also to other aerial activities such as parachute drops, helicopters, pleasure flights or glider towing. It is obviously wrong to stigmatize aerobatics as the only source of noise pollution.

Aerobatics can be perceived more intensely when several flights are concentrated during the same day and at the same location. However, these cases are very rare because, with the exception of the national championships (which alternate annually at the host airfields), only a few training days or possibly a small one-day regional competition justify more than 3-4 flights on the same site. In general, there are less than 10 days per year when aerobatics can be considered as practiced intensively at the same location.

FACT #3: SAA CODE OF CONDUCT REDUCES THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF "NOISE" INDUCED BY AEROBATICS

In Switzerland, by law, the practice of aerobatics is authorized from sunrise to sunset and this every day. Fully aware of the impact of aerobatics on the neighborhood of the aerodromes, the SAA in collaboration with the FOCA, has created the following charter of living together:

- During the week, practice aerobatics only during normal office hours (from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and from 1:30 pm to 7:00 pm)
- On Sundays and holidays, limit the practice of aerobatics to certain hours (from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm)
- Renounce "stationary" evolutions on Sundays and holidays
- Establish or adhere to a map system that regulates where and when "stationary" acrobatic practices are allowed (magnets on maps).
- Whenever possible, practice "itinerant" aerobatics

Sources and additional information:

- Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA): <https://www.bazl.admin.ch/bazl/en/home.html>
- Best apps to measure noise level (decibel meters): <https://blog.echobarrier.com/blog/6-best-ios-apps-to-measure-noise-level-decibel-meters>
- SAA Charter: https://www.saa.ch/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/flyer_kunstflug_emailversion-fr.pdf

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