



AIRCRAFT NOISE ON THE GROUND

If you live very close to the airport you may hear noise from aircraft that are still on the ground. Unlike the noise limits that apply to departing aircraft, there are no limits on other sources of noise that originate from the airport. However, at London Stansted we recognise the importance that the interests of the local community are taken into account.

There are several main causes of noise on the ground at airports:

- Aircraft using reverse thrust to increase their braking when they land
- Aircraft travelling between the runway and the stands (where they park)
- Aircraft sitting on the stands with their Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) running
- Engine testing

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO REDUCE GROUND NOISE

Reverse thrust is a way of slowing aircraft down once they have landed. There may be some situations, for example, a wet runway, where reverse thrust need to be used for safety reasons. Because of the noise, the Government has requested pilots to restrict the use of reverse thrust between 23:30hrs and 06:00hrs, unless they have to for safety reasons.

At London Stansted, we are working with Air Traffic Control (ATC) to cut down the amount of time that aircraft are waiting to take off, or are taxiing on the ground, so that the engines are not running for so long.

We can also plug an aircraft into a fixed electrical supply, while they are on stand. This is a system known as Fixed Electrical Ground Power (FEGP) and it can replace the noisy auxiliary power units on the aircraft itself. This allows for vital instrumentation to run whilst the aircraft is on the ground.

ENGINE TESTING

It is clearly important all the necessary tests are carried out on aircraft engines before they are allowed to fly. These tests, known as 'grounds runs', are required as part of routine maintenance.

Unfortunately, the tests create noise which can cause disturbance close to the airport. We have therefore made special noise-protected areas, called ground-run pens, where engine testing is carried out. Additionally, we use landscaping (for example earth barriers and walls) to provide noise barriers between the planes and the local community. Engine testing is banned at night.

London Stansted place limitations and restrictions on engine ground running by location, time, aircraft type, duration and type of run. Different limitations and restrictions apply during the day (07:00 - 23:00) and the night (23:00 - 07:00) and these are more restrictive during the night period.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information, please contact the airport:

- Website: Make an enquiry, view an aircraft track or log a noise complaint:
www.stanstedairport.com/noise
- By e-mail: stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com
- By telephone: **0800 243 788** (answerphone service only)
- By post: Flight Evaluation Unit
Enterprise House
London Stansted Airport
Stansted
Essex CM24 1QW



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