Scooters: Noise of electric and combustion powered scooters. PTW noise levels, resulting annoyance and potential for reduction

Stockholm, December 11, 2012 CityHush Training Workshop André Fiebig, HEAD acoustics GmbH







- Since in southern European cities powered-two wheelers are widely spread, this noise source require particular attention
- Especially in the context of preserving and creating quiet zones this noise is of particular importance
- E.g. Bologna: Up to 20% of everyday life movements are performed by motorbike or moped (Paviotti, 2011)
- Even in Germany over 3.8 Mio powered two-wheelers (PTW) are registered with tendency to rise





Identification of Relevant Noise Sources



E-Scooter



```
E-Scooter
```

- Use of *microphone* array for detection of most relevant noise sources
- The detected sources must be considered in simulation



CityHush -

How Loud are (Electric) Motorbikes?



 Pass-by measurements regarding typical urban driving conditions (starting, low constant speed)

City

Hush



Noise Reduction Potential of Scooters



Electrification of scooters will be highly effective (up to 20 dB difference)

Stockholm, December 11, 2012 Fiebig: Annoyance of Powered-Two Wheelers

Comparison of the L_{Amax} of Scooters for 3 Pass-by Scenarios





 For the investigation of PTW noise and for the validation of the predicted annoyance caused by PTWs diverse listening tests in the laboratory were carried out



City

Annoyance of Single Pass-by Noise Events



Box-and-whisker plot: Annoyance ratings of different scooter pass-by scenarios

- Annoyance of C-Scooters is significantly higher than the annoyance of E-Scooter passby noise
- In all driving conditions this significant difference exists

Is it only a Question of Sound Pressure Level?



Box-plot: C-scooter noise is adjusted to E-scooter in sound pressure level (L_{Amax})

 High annoyance potential of Cscooters caused by psychoacoustic properties beyond SPL (e.g. high roughness)

Comparison of L_{Amax} of Virtual Damping Modifications



Comparison of L_{Amax} of pass by noises with respect to virtual damping modifications. All scenarios are simulated with TNS

- C-Scooter with modified engine shows almost no difference
- The modification of the exhaust radiation results in a significant reduction in SPL
- Although there is a level reduction due to the modified exhaust, the SPL of the E-Scooter is still considerable lower

Stockholm, December 11, 2012 Fiebig: Annoyance of Powered-Two Wheelers

Annoyance of Single Pass-by Noise Events - Modified



Box-and-whisker plot: Annoyance ratings of different (modified) scooter pass-by scenarios

- Annoyance reduction effect due to the damping of the combustion engine can be neglected
- The damping of the exhaust system leads to a reduction of perceived annoyance of only one category (by -8 dB noise reduction)

Stockholm, December 11, 2012 Fiebig: Annoyance of Powered-Two Wheelers

Conclusion I: Evaluation of Single Passby Noise of PTWs

- A great noise reduction can be achieved when combustion engine powered scooters would be replaced by electric ones
- This is particularly effective concerning scooters with small twinstroke engines
- Even considerable modifications at major sources of C-scooters do not lead to a significant noise annoyance reduction



Powered Two-Wheelers and Their Acoustical and Perceptual Impact on Road Traffic



http://shanghai.talkmagazines.cn/issue/2012-02/hanoi-city-verge

Stockholm, December 11, 2012 Fiebig: Annoyance of Powered-Two Wheelers

13

CityHush

Generation of Road Traffic Flows Including PTWs

- Scooter noise is evaluated in the context of complete road traffic scenarios (use of Traffic Noise Synthesizer technology)
- Two different shares of E- and C-Scooters with respect to the total traffic flow were simulated: 5 % and 15 %
- The passenger car traffic flow is simulated as C-Cars (ICE) and E-Cars (EV) with a speed limit of 30 km/h and 1440 vhp



Annoyance of Different Road Traffic Scenarios

Annoyance of traffic scenario



Change from E- to C-Scooter while the surrounding traffic scenario is kept (720 vph)

Evaluation of Pure Scooter Traffic

Variation of scooter composition (share of E-Scooters changed from 0% to 100%)



Comparison of N₅-values for different compositions of C- and E-Scooters for different traffic volumes

 Loudness can only be reduced significantly, if the C-Scooter share is reduced to a minimum close to zero



Summary



CityHush |-

Stockholm, December 11, 2012 Fiebig: Annoyance of Powered-Two Wheelers 17



- Road traffic with a certain share of C-scooters is always perceived as more annoying independent from surrounding passenger car traffic.
- This annoyance trend is even more significant, when the surrounding traffic consists of electric.
- The improvement when introducing electric cars remains low when scooters with combustion engines are still present

Only a restrictive policy against powered two wheelers equipped with combustion engines is an efficient solution for Q-Zones!





Thank you for your attention!



André Fiebig HEAD acoustics GmbH andre.fiebig@head-acoustics.de

CityHush

Stockholm, December 11, 2012 Fiebig: Annoyance of Powered-Two Wheelers 19