



2009 Sound Pressure League Format General Rules

B. Judging Criteria

1. MECA "Pressure Class" Formula will be used to determine "Pressure Class" Ratings:

$\{(Total\ Amperage\ of\ In-Line\ Fusing \times 10) + Total\ Square\ Inches\ of\ Woofer\ Cone\ Surface\ Area\} = Pressure\ Class\ \#$

2. Only in-line fusing for subwoofer amplifiers will be calculated in the formula for qualifying members' systems. If multiple fuses are run in series, only the fuse closest to the amplifier(s) will be counted.
3. Power sources may not be wired in after the fuse, including but not limited to, Batteries, Capacitors, Alternators, or unused Amplifiers.
4. In-line fuse(s) must be placed immediately before the subwoofer amplifier(s) a maximum of 18" from the amplifier(s) and all positive power wires leading to the subwoofer amplifier(s) must be fused.
5. In a multi-amplifier installation which utilizes three (3) or more subwoofer amplifiers. The 18" rule will be waived when the fuse holder or fuse bank is within 18" of one (1) of the subwoofer amplifiers and no other rules are violated.
6. A single fuse holder may be used to power multiple amplifiers or multiple fuse holders may be used to power a single amplifier. However, AS1, S1, M1, & DB1 are limited to one (1) fuse, AS2, S2, M2, & DB2 are limited to two (2) fuses, AS3, S3, M3, MX1, & DB3 are limited to three (3) Fuses, S4, M4, MX2, and DB4 are limited to four (4) fuses, X1 may use multiple fuses, and S5, M5, MX3, X2, and DB5 are not required to have fusing.
7. In-line fuse(s), fuse holder(s), and/or power wire(s) leading from fuse holder(s) to subwoofer amplifier(s) may not be obstructed and must be fully accessible for verification.
8. In-line fuses are limited to AGU, AUE, ANE, ATC, ANL, or Mini-ANL (also known as MIDI) type fuses. Fuses maximum rated voltage is 32 Volts.
9. Circuit Breakers are not considered fuses.
10. Once system has been verified, fuses may not be replaced without Judge's approval. Fuses may not be changed during the official test.
11. Fuses may not be altered or tampered with in any way. Fuses may not be "iced down".
12. For non-members and members who are not qualifying: If the system does not have in-line fusing, then the total of on-board fuses will be used in the "Pressure Class" Formula. If the amplifier(s) do not have on-board fuses, then one-half (1/2) the amplifier's Maximum CEA 2006 rating will be used in order to determine class assignment. If that rating is not available, then one-half (1/2) the maximum peak rating will be used. If that is not available, then one-half (1/2) the maximum published rating will be used. If that is not available, then one-half (1/2) the theoretical rating will be used. The theoretical rating is determined by doubling the power when the resistance is halved. For example: the amp has a rating of 500 watts at 4 ohms from the manufacturer and is 1 ohm stable with no rating, therefore, it has a theoretical rating of 2000 watts at 1 ohm and one-half (1/2) of that would be 1000. *In these cases:*
 $\{(Total\ Woofer\ Amplifier\ Power/2) + Total\ Square\ Inches\ of\ Woofer\ Cone\ Surface\ Area\} = Pressure\ Class\ \#$
13. Subwoofer amplifier(s) must be properly fused, using in-line fuses (per B.8.) in order for a competitor to earn points at a show, and/or to have their score applied toward a State Record and possible State Championship, Points Championship, or for World Finals Soundfest qualifications.
14. Competitor selects and supplies source material. (i.e., CD, Tape, Radio, MP3's, iPod's, digital jukeboxes, or any other electronic media source). Specific restrictions are outlined for Amateur Street and "Drive-by SPL Parade".
15. Peak frequency must not be above 100 Hz, as determined by the TermLab system.
16. Once vehicle has entered lane & Judge is ready to begin, competitor has 5 minutes to begin pass or pass will be disqualified. At the conclusion of the pass, once the Judge has removed the sensor from the vehicle, the Competitor has 5 minutes to drive the vehicle out of the lanes or the pass will be disqualified.
17. Pass is timed for 30 seconds with TermLab scoring system set to "Peak Hold", except for "Drive-by SPL Parade" which is set to "Average".
18. Retry will be allowed if system fails and score does not exceed 130 dB (105 dB for "Drive-by SPL Parade"). Blowing subwoofer amplifier fuses does not constitute a system failure. Competitor will have 5 minutes to fix problem and be ready for retest. Under no circumstances will a Competitor be allowed more than one retest under this rule.
19. Ties will be settled with a formal tiebreaker. Highest score wins place in the class in which tie happened. i.e., if there is a tie for 2nd place, the winner of the tie breaker gets 2nd place and the loser gets 3rd place. Scores set in a tie breaker do not effect any other standings.
20. The "SPL Best of Show" award will be presented to the Competitor who posts the highest SPL score in the Sound Pressure Level contest. The "Drive-by SPL Parade Best of Show" will be presented to the Competitor who posts the highest score among those Competitors. The "Sound Pressure League Best of Show" will be presented to the Competitor who posts the highest combined scores in SPL and Drive-by SPL Parade contests.
21. The TermLab meter is the official MECA meter, and will be used for all Double or Triple Point events. State Records may only be set at a Double or Triple Point Event, using the TermLab metering system and TermLab sensor.
22. World Records may only be set at the World Finals Soundfest, using the TermLab metering system and TermLab sensor.
23. MECA reserves the option to supply fuses at 3X Triple point events and the 2009 World Finals Soundfest, should an "Official Fuse Sponsor/Supplier" be found.
24. MECA World Finals Soundfest SPL will be a "Qualifying Event". A "Qualifying Event" is a 2 day Soundfest where the first day "Top 3" scorers in each class qualify and compete on the second day to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.
25. Any discretionary rulings at a show will be documented by the Judge and forwarded to the Commissioner and the MECA Rules & Ethics Committee for an official ruling, and possible rule clarification or amendment.