

7 EMMA rules - Sound Pressure League (ESPL) judging

When judging Sound Pressure Level, it is important to have a clear notion what kind of Competition this is about. Not only the absolute SPL-number should be the criteria, but also "how" the vehicle is built.

The following procedures and rules must be observed during the ESPL judging:

1. The volume is only controlled by the owner or presenter of the competition vehicle
2. The judges will not adjust any volume control, track selection control and head unit power switch.
3. Only the official EMMA ESPL judging CD is to be used for the judging process and the announced track will be played.
4. The maximum voltage is 14,4 (+0,14) Volts with engine running, except in Master category.
5. A maximum of two (2) physical amplifier-channels for each physically installed woofer is allowed, except in Master category (two bridged/linked channels will be counted as one channel).
6. Cars with modified amplifiers must compete in Advanced or Master category.
7. Cars with modified charging systems must compete in Master category
8. In EMMA ESPL Entry and Experienced, the subwoofers must be mounted in the original trunk area (retractable rear seat must be locked in upright position) with a maximum height not higher than the top of the original rear seat (not headrests!), otherwise the car must compete in Advanced or Master category.
9. A front system must be installed and play audible music during measurement. It should be installed according to the official EMMA Rulebook. If the front system is installed in another or even dangerous way the car has to compete in Master category.
10. Cars with more than two midrange/-woofer speakers per side up front must compete in the next higher competition category. The mid woofer(s) must be equal to or smaller then 20cm (8") / 6x9".
11. The competitor is responsible for his/her equipment and EMMA takes over no responsibility or guarantees in case of any damage to the sound system or the vehicle.
12. It is the competitor's decision if he/she sits inside the car during the judging process. EMMA is not responsible for damages to the health of the competitor but strongly recommends being careful!!!
13. The vehicle must be shown to the public after the measurement is finished. The organisers will point out an area for presentation. In that case the cars must be presented to the public for a minimum time of 15 Minutes. If the presentation does not happen the judge or Event Director will deduct 10 Points.
14. Only officially registered cars are allowed to compete, with the exception of cars competing in EMMA ESPL Master, and they must be able to be driven inside and outside the judging area by using their own engine.
15. No additional power supplies are allowed to be connected during the measurement process.
16. It is not allowed to cut of the signal for the midrange and tweeter section of the audio system to lower the volume of these. If there is no signal coming out of the midrange and or tweeter, the Measurement Judge will deduct 10 Points per measurement.
17. Except in ESPL Master, all competitor cars must have driver and passenger side seats installed in original condition or similar (sport seats, etc.).
18. Transporters, vans, pick-ups, etc. without rear seats have to start in the Advanced or Master category.
19. All components of the audio-system have to be installed into the vehicle – trailers etc. are not allowed.
20. The participating vehicles should be stock or are allowed to be moderately damped (as normal for SQ-cars, approx. 3mm). If polyurethane-foam, concrete, etc. is used, the car has to compete in Master category.
21. Additional batteries are allowed to be installed in the engine or the trunk compartment. If they are installed in the passenger compartment, the car must compete in Master category.
22. The source unit must be installed properly into the car – except in Advanced or Master category.
23. If during measurement the head unit stops/blocks/jumps, etc. the competitor has a second chance to start over after 2 minutes. The same if he used another track. There is no third chance for any reason.
24. All official ESPL Measurements have to be done with the Measurement Systems licensed by EMMA

7.1 ESPL-Judging

7.1.1 Installation-Judging:

Installation judging can be done before or after the measurement process. The competitor guides the judge through the installation of his vehicle. The scoring will be explained immediately to the competitor.

Measurements:

The Event Director or Head Judge decides on the track to be used for measurement from the official ESPL CD on the day of the event (e.g. by lottery, etc.).

Only for the national final and the European Final, the track that will be used will be announced one week in advance.

The measuring procedure is as follows:

7.1.2 Measurement closed:

The first measurement will be with the doors closed – a minimum 30 seconds of music will be played.

Within the next 2 Minutes a second measurement will follow:

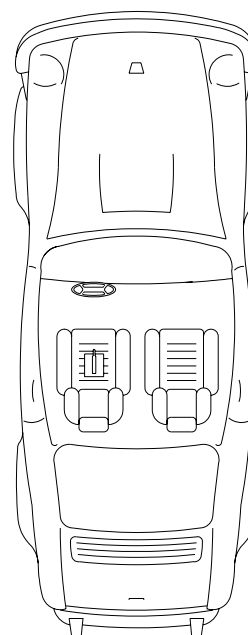
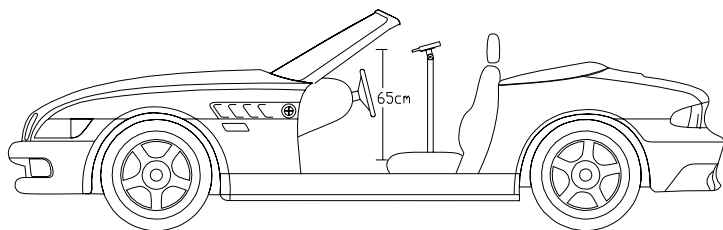
7.1.3 Measurement open:

The second measurement will be done with both front doors completely open – a minimum 30 seconds of music will be played with the same track as in the first measurement.

If the competition is outside, it is allowed to have the engine running. If it is inside a hall no vehicle will be allowed to run the engine.

The microphone/sensor will be placed by an authorised Judge and the competitors are not allowed to touch it in anyway, during and between both measurements.

The judges must ensure that the microphone height and orientation are absolutely consistent from vehicle to vehicle with the exception of the angle.



The following guidelines apply for using a microphone (except in Master category)

1. The Omni-directional microphone/Sensor must be positioned in the centre of the driver's seat, approx. 65 cm above the seat, oriented on a level horizontal plane towards the dash of the vehicle. This is referred to as the "standard position ". The judge will use this position unless otherwise specified by the competitor.
2. The capsule of the microphone may be moved a maximum of 8 cm in any direction, but maintaining an orientation towards the dash .The standard height of 65 cm as well as the positioning of above the centre of the drivers seat must also be maintained. A maximum of two minutes will be allowed to align the microphone. After that time, if the competitor has not completed the alignment, the judge will place the microphone in the standard position and test will proceed.

The following guidelines apply for using a sensor (or microphone) in Master category

The microphone/sensor will be on the driver's side, on axis with the steering wheel and positioned at or close to the windshield. The height of the microphone / sensor will be measured from the rubber at the top of the windshield, 25 centimetres down.

The cable of the microphone / sensor must be routed through the original door opening by the judge. No special devices are allowed. No other equipment than the official measuring equipment, cables etc. are allowed to be used.

7.2 Optional for ESPL

The Event Director can decide, before the competition starts, to have a qualification round and a final round. If the decision is made to have a qualification and a final, two tracks will be elected. The track for the final will not be announced before the final starts.

The Qualification:

Installation, measurement open and closed as described above. The results will be added together. The best four to eight competitors of each category are qualified for the Final round.

The Final:

The measurement modus is the same but with another track from the official ESPL CD. The installation points will be carried over from the qualification round.

The number one of the first round will compete against the competitor who finished last in that same round, the second against the seventh, the third against the sixth, and the fourth against the fifth place qualifiers. In the semi-finals the first will compete against the fourth, and the second against the third.

The final follows with the two winners of the semi-final against each other.

If something is not covered in these rules, the general guidelines of the official EMMA rulebook are to be used. In each event the Head Judge and/or the Event Director is the highest court of appeal, and his/her decision is final.

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