

# NIGHT FLIGHTS

London Stansted Airport has always been a 24-hour, seven days a week operation. We recognise however, that at night when there is less background noise, aircraft noise may be more intrusive. For this reason, there are specific restrictions and regulations governing night operations.

## Who makes the restrictions?

The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for setting the restrictions. London Stansted Airport strictly monitors compliance with all the restrictions in place. The airport reports weekly on compliance to both the DfT and our airlines. We also report regularly to the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC) – an independent consultative group made up of representatives from local authorities, councillors, businesses, airlines and the DfT.

## What are the restrictions?

The night period is defined as 23:00 to 07:00 hours (local). During this time the following restrictions apply:

- **The noise limit reduces in shoulder periods as well as at night**  
The noise limit reduces from 94 L<sub>max</sub> (dB) during the daytime to 89 L<sub>max</sub> (dB) between 06:00 to 07:00 and 23:00 to 23:30. It reduces again to 87 L<sub>max</sub> (dB) between 23:30 and 06:00.  
L<sub>max</sub> is the maximum sound level during a measurement period or a noise event.
- **The noisiest types of aircraft cannot be scheduled**  
Aircraft rated QC4 or above cannot be scheduled to take off or land during the night period, 23:30 to 06:00. For QC8 and QC16 aircraft this requirement is extended to a complete ban on operations between 23:00 and 07:00.

- A night quota and movement limit applies  
The night flying restrictions consist of a movements limit and a quota count limit. The restrictions are divided into summer and winter seasons.

Season	Movement limit	Quota limit
Summer	8,100	4,650
Winter	5,600	3,310

## Aircraft certification

Aircraft are certified by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) according to the levels of noise they produce. They are classified separately for both take-off and landing.

Points are allocated to different aircraft types according to how noisy they are. The noisier the aircraft type, the higher the points allocated. This provides an incentive for airlines to use quieter aircraft types.

Certified noise level (EPNdB)	Quota count
More than 101.9	QC/16
99 – 101.9	QC/8
96 – 98.9	QC/4
93 – 95.9	QC/2
90 – 92.9	QC/1
87 – 89.9	QC/0.5
84 – 86.9	QC/0.25
81 – 83.9	QC/0.125
Below 81	QC0

The quietest types of aircraft, QC0, do not add to the quota limit but are included in the movement limit. The airport is permitted 10% flexibility between seasons.



## Are there any exceptions or dispensations?

There are circumstances in which the UK Government or the airport can apply an exemption for a night movement not to count against the seasonal limits. There are circumstances detailed in the Government's dispensation guidance and are used, for example, to prevent hardship to passengers or to allow an emergency or medical flight.

## How is compliance to the restrictions monitored?

Night flights are monitored by the airport daily. We report regularly to the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC). We also provide weekly reports to the DfT and our airlines detailing the use of the movement limits and the noise quotas, details of any dispensations or exemptions granted and reports on any movements by the two noisiest groups of aircraft during the night period.