

CHAPTER 62-18  
VEHICLE SOUND MEASUREMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
PART I	
HIGHWAY VEHICLE TEST PROCEDURE	
62-18.001 GENERAL. (REPEALED).....	2
62-18.020 DEFINITIONS. (REPEALED).....	2
62-18.030-INSTRUMENTATION. (REPEALED).....	2
62-18.040 EQUIPMENT OPERATORS. (REPEALED) .....	2
62-18.050 LOCATION OF MICROPHONE. (REPEALED).....	2
62-18.060 METER OPERATION.....	2
62-18.070 HIGHWAY MEASUREMENT SITES.....	3
62-18.080 PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING. (REPEALED).....	4
62-18.090 REFERENCE. (REPEALED) .....	4
62-18.500 GENERAL. (REPEALED).....	4
62-18.510 DEFINITIONS. (REPEALED) .....	4
62-18.520 INSTRUMENTATION. ....	5
62-18.530 PERSONNEL. (REPEALED) .....	5
62-18.540 METER OPERATION.....	5
62-18.550 MEASUREMENT SITES FOR NEW MOTOR VEHICLES.....	6
62-18.560 NEW MOTOR VEHICLE TESTS.....	6
62-18.570 VEHICLE SOUND LEVEL. ....	8
62-18.580 REFERENCE. (REPEALED) .....	9
62-18.700 GENERAL. (REPEALED) .....	9
62-18.710 DEFINITIONS. (REPEALED).....	9
62-18.720 INSTRUMENTATION. (REPEALED).....	9
62-18.730 INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION. (REPEALED) .....	9
62-18.740 PERSONNEL. (REPEALED) .....	9
62-18.750 METER OPERATION. (REPEALED).....	9
62-18.760 LIGHT TRUCKS, BUSES AND PASSENGER CARS. (REPEALED).....	9
62-18.770 HEAVY TRUCKS, TRUCK TRACTORS, AND BUSES. (REPEALED).....	10
62-18.780 MOTORCYCLES AND MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES. (REPEALED).....	10
62-18.790 EXCEPTION. (REPEALED).....	10
62-18.800 CERTIFICATION. (REPEALED).....	10
62-18.810 DATA. (REPEALED).....	10
62-18.820 EFFECTIVE DATE. (REPEALED).....	10

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PART I  
HIGHWAY VEHICLE TEST PROCEDURE

**62-18.001 General. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(7), 316.293(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.01, 17-18.001, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.020 Definitions. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(7), 316.293(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.02, 17-18.020, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.030-Instrumentation. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 316.293(3), 403.061(7), 403.061(13) FS. Law Implemented 316.293, 316.293(3), 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(7), 403.415(9) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 1-27-74, Amended 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.03, 17-18.030, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.040 Equipment Operators. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(7), 316.293(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.04, 17-18.040, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.050 Location of Microphone. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.415(7), 316.293(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.05, 17-18.050, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.060 Meter Operation.**

The sound level meter shall be operated in accordance with the instrument manufacturer's instructions and as follows:

- (1) Microphone Orientation. The microphone shall be oriented in relation to the source of the sound in accordance with instrument manufacturer's instructions. Where the instruction manual is vague or does not include adequate information, a specific recommendation shall be obtained from the manufacturer.
- (2) Meter Setting. The meter shall be set for the A-weighted network and fast response.
- (3) Calibration Check. An external calibration check shall be made before and after each period of use and at intervals not exceeding 2 hours when the instrument is used longer than a 2 hour period.
- (4) Meter Reading. The recorded reading shall be the highest sound level obtained as the vehicle passes by, disregarding unrelated peaks due to extraneous ambient noises.
- (5) Ambient Sound. Measurements shall be made only when the A-weighted ambient sound level, including wind effects and all sources other than the vehicle being measured, is at least 10 dB lower than the sound level of the vehicle.

Specific Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(7), 316.293(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.06, 17-18.060.

### **62-18.070 Highway Measurement Sites.**

Sites for measuring sound from vehicles operated on highways shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Standard Sites. Standard measuring sites shall be open and free of sound-reflecting surfaces within a 100 foot radius of the microphone and a 100 foot radius of the microphone point as shown in Figure 1.

(2) Restricted Sites. Restricted measuring sites which do not meet standard site requirements because of large sound-reflecting surfaces within the clear area (see Figure 2) may be used by applying correction factors determined from the following procedure.

(a) Distance from sound-reflecting surfaces. The distances between the microphone line and its nearest sound-reflecting surface and between the centerline of the lane of travel and its nearest sound-reflecting surface shall be measured. These distances shall be located on the nomogram in Figure 3 on their respective axes, and the two marks shall be connected by a straight line. The point on the central axis that is intersected by the straight line indicates the dB correction factor that shall be applied to the sound level reading obtained from each vehicle passing through the site. (The dotted line in Figure 3 illustrates a – 2dB correction for sound-reflecting surfaces at 52 feet from the center of the lane of travel and 25 feet from the microphone line.)

1. The correction factors determined by the nomogram in Figure 3 shall be used only for sound-reflecting surfaces that are parallel to the lane of travel.

2. Basically parallel surfaces may have irregularities or projections of not more than 2 feet, measured perpendicular to the lane of travel, with the distance shown in Figures 2 and 3 measured from the nearest projecting surfaces.

3. Sound-reflecting surfaces not basically parallel to the lane of travel shall be 100 feet or more from the microphone and microphone point. This restriction does not apply to surfaces that are perpendicular to the lane of travel and behind the parallel surface for which corrections are made, such as a fence, or the side walls of a building.

(b) Distance from Embankments. Distance measurements from smooth embankments covered with vegetation, concrete, asphalt, dirt, or other relatively smooth cover shall be made from the point where the slope begins to exceed 45 degrees above horizontal. Measurements from non-smooth embankments shall be made from the point where the irregularity begins.

(c) Restrictions. Selection of sites shall be subject to the following restrictions:

1. Sound measurements shall not be made within 100 feet of a tunnel or overpass through which the roadway passes.

2. The microphone line and the center of the lane of travel shall not be within 50 feet of any overhang exceeding 2 feet, measured perpendicular to the lane of travel.

3. Sound measurements shall not be made when either the microphone line or the center of the lane of travel is within 10 feet of any sound-reflecting surface.

(d) Change in Sound Measuring Distance. When the distance from the microphone to the center of the lane of travel differs from the 50 foot standard at a

restricted measuring site (see Table 1), the dB correction for distance shall be algebraically added to the correction for reflections to obtain the total correction.

(3) Non-reflecting Surfaces. The following objects shall not be considered sound-reflecting surfaces:

(a) Any object such as a telephone booth or tree trunk less than 8 feet wide (measured in a direction parallel to the vehicle path, regardless of height). Such objects shall be either on the opposite side of the vehicle path from the microphone or more than 10 feet from a line passing through the microphone and microphone point.

(b) Any surface less than 1 foot in height, regardless of length, such as a curb or guard rail.

(c) Any vertical surface, such as a billboard, with the lower edge more than 15 feet above the roadway.

(d) Any uniformly smooth slanting surface with less than a 45 degree slope above horizontal.

(e) Any slanting surface with a 45 to 90 degree slope above horizontal where the point at which the slope begins to exceed 45 degrees is more than 15 feet above the roadway.

(f) Chain link fences or any vegetation such as trees, bushes, shrubs, hedges, and grass.

(4) Roadway Surface. The surface over which the vehicle travels shall be dry and relatively smooth concrete or asphalt pavement.

Specific Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(7), 316.292(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.07, 17-18.070.

#### **62-18.080 Procedure for Reporting. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(7), 316.293(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.08, 17-18.080, Repealed 2-16-12.

#### **62-18.090 Reference. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented ; 403.061, 403.415(5) , 316.293(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.09, 17-18.090, Repealed 2-16-12.

## PART II NEW VEHICLE TEST PROCEDURE

#### **62-18.500 General. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.061, 403.415(5) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.50, 17-18.500, Repealed 2-16-12.

#### **62-18.510 Definitions. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.061, 403.415(5) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.51, 17-18.510, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.520 Instrumentation.**

Equipment used in making vehicle sound measurements shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Sound Level Meter. Sound level meters shall be of the precision type meeting A-weighting requirements and specifications of the American National Standards Institute, Inc., or its successor bodies. Alternately, a microphone/magnetic tape recorder/ indicating meter system whose overall response is equivalent to the above may be used.
  - (2) Sound Level Calibrator. The sound level calibrator shall calibrate the entire sound level meter with an acoustic calibrator of the coupler type, following the manufacturer's recommended procedures.
  - (3) Tachometer. A calibrated engine speed tachometer shall be used to determine maximum rated rpm.
  - (4) Anemometer. An anemometer shall be used to measure the wind speed at the test site.
  - (5) Windscreen. A properly installed windscreen recommended by the manufacturer of the sound level meter may be used.
- Specific Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.061, FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.52, 17-18.520.

**62-18.530 Personnel. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.53, 17-18.530, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.540 Meter Operation.**

The sound level meter shall be operated in accordance with the instrument manufacturer's instructions and as follows:

- (1) Location of the Microphone. The microphone shall be located at a height of 4 feet  $\pm$  1 inch above the roadway and at a distance of 50  $\pm$  1 feet from the center of the vehicle path.
- (2) Microphone Orientation. The microphone shall be oriented in relation to the source of the sound in accordance with the instrument manufacturer's instructions. Where the instruction manual is vague or does not include adequate information, a specific recommendation shall be obtained from the manufacturer.
- (3) Meter Setting. The meter shall be set for an A-weighted network and fast response.
- (4) Calibration Check. An external calibration check shall be made before and after each period of use and at intervals not exceeding 2 hours when the instrument is used for longer than a 2 hour period.
- (5) Meter Reading. The recorded reading shall be the highest sound level obtained as the vehicle passes by, disregarding unrelated peaks due to extraneous ambient noises.
- (6) Ambient Sound. Measurements shall be made only when the A-weighted ambient sound level, including wind effects and all sources other than the vehicle being measured, is at least 10 dB lower than the sound level of the vehicle.

(7) Wind. Measurements shall be made only when the wind velocity is less than 12 miles per hour (mph).  
Specific Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.54, 17-18.540.

#### **62-18.550 Measurement Sites for New Motor Vehicles.**

Sites for measuring sound from new motor vehicles shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Location. The site location shall be a flat open space free of large sound-reflecting surfaces other than the ground (such as signboards, buildings, hillsides, or trees) within 100 feet of the microphone and within 100 feet of the following points on the vehicle path:

- (a) The microphone point.
- (b) A point 50 feet before the microphone point.
- (c) A point 50 feet beyond the microphone point.

(2) Ground Condition. The ground surface of the measuring site shall be smooth asphalt or concrete free of snow, soil, or ashes in at least the triangular area between the microphone and points 50 feet before and beyond the microphone point.

(3) Roadway Surface. The surface of the vehicle path shall be dry and smooth asphalt or concrete pavement free of extraneous material.  
Specific Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.55, 17-18.550.

#### **62-18.560 New Motor Vehicle Tests.**

New motor vehicles shall be operated with and without the auxiliary equipment which may be in use when the vehicles are on the highway. Auxiliary equipment includes but is not limited to cement mixers, refrigerator units, air conditioners, and garbage compactors. Clutch fan units need not be manually engaged while undergoing the vehicle sound measurement.

(1) Heavy Trucks, Truck Tractors, and Buses. The test procedure for vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more shall be as follows:

(a) Test Area Layout. The test area shall include a vehicle path of sufficient length for safe acceleration, deceleration, and stopping of the vehicle. As shown in Figure 4, with only one directional approach illustrated for purposes of clarity, the following points and zones shall be established on the vehicle path:

1. Microphone point.
2. Acceleration point – a location 50 feet before the microphone point.
3. End point – a location 50 feet beyond the microphone point.
4. End zone – the last 40 feet distance between the microphone point and the end point.

(b) Gear Selection. The highest gear (lowest numerical ratio) shall be selected which will result in the vehicle beginning at an approach rpm of not more than 2/3 maximum rpm at the acceleration point and reaching maximum rpm within the end zone without exceeding 5 mph.

1. When maximum rpm is attained before reaching the end zone, the next higher gear shall be selected, up to the gear where maximum rpm produces over 35 mph.

2. When maximum rpm still occurs before reaching the end zone, the approach rpm shall be decreased in 100 rpm increments until maximum rpm is attained in the end zone.

3. When maximum rpm is not attained until beyond the end zone, the next lower gear shall be selected until maximum rpm is attained within the end zone.

4. When the lowest gear still results in reaching maximum rpm beyond the end zone, the approach rpm shall be increased in 100 rpm increments above 2/3 maximum rpm until the maximum rpm is reached within the end zone.

(c) Acceleration. The vehicle shall approach the acceleration point using the engine speed and gear selection established in paragraph 62-18.560(2)(b), F.A.C. When the vehicle reference point reaches the acceleration point, the throttle shall be rapidly and fully held open until maximum rpm is attained within the end zone, at which point the throttle shall be closed.

(d) Deceleration. Tests during deceleration shall be conducted when deceleration noise appears excessive. The vehicle shall proceed along the vehicle path at maximum rpm in the same gear selected for testing during acceleration. When the vehicle reference point reaches the microphone point, the throttle shall be rapidly closed and the vehicle allowed to decelerate to less than 1/2 maximum rpm. Vehicles equipped with exhaust brakes shall also be tested with the brake full on immediately following the closing of the throttle.

(e) Engine Temperature. The engine temperature of gasoline powered vehicles shall be within normal operating range throughout each test run. A one minute cooling off period with engine at idle in neutral is required of gasoline powered vehicles.

(2) Light Trucks, Truck Tractors, Buses and Passenger Cars. The test procedure for trucks, truck tractors, and buses with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds and all passenger cars shall be as follows:

(a) Test Area Layout. The test area shall include a vehicle path of sufficient length for safe acceleration, deceleration, and stopping of the vehicle. As shown in Figure 5, with only one directional approach illustrated for clarity, the following points and zones shall be established on the vehicle path:

1. Microphone point.
2. Acceleration point – a location 25 feet before the microphone point.
3. End point – a location 125 feet beyond the microphone point.
4. End zone – the last 75-foot distance between the microphone point and the end point.

(b) Gear Selection. Vehicles shall be operated in the lowest gear. Vehicles which reach maximum rpm at less than 30 mph or before reaching the end zone shall be operated in the next higher gear. Auxiliary step-up ratios (overdrive) shall not be engaged in vehicles so equipped.

(c) Acceleration. The vehicle shall approach the acceleration point along the vehicle path at a speed of 30 miles per hour. When the vehicle reference point reaches the acceleration point, the throttle shall be rapidly and fully opened. The throttle shall be held open until the vehicle reference point reaches the end point or maximum rpm is

reached within the end zone. Upon reaching maximum rpm, the throttle shall be closed sufficiently to keep the engine just under maximum rpm until the end point, at which time the throttle shall be closed.

(d) Deceleration. Tests during deceleration shall be conducted when deceleration noise appears excessive. The vehicle shall approach the end point from the reverse direction at maximum rpm in the same gear selected for testing during acceleration. When the vehicle reference point reaches the end point, the throttle shall be rapidly closed and the vehicle allowed to decelerate to less than 1/2 of maximum rpm.

(e) Engine Temperature. The engine temperature shall be within normal operating range throughout each test run. The engine shall be idled in neutral for at least one minute between runs.

(3) Motorcycles. The test procedure for motorcycles shall be as follows:

(a) Test Area Layout. The test area layout for motorcycles shall be the same as specified for light trucks, truck tractors, buses, and passenger cars in preceding paragraph (2)(a) and Figure 5.

(b) Gear Selection. Motorcycles shall be operated in second gear. Vehicles which reach maximum rpm at less than 30 miles per hour or before a point 25 feet beyond the microphone point shall be operated in the next higher gear.

(c) Acceleration. The vehicle shall proceed along the vehicle path at a constant speed of 60 percent of maximum rpm or 30 miles per hour, whichever is lower. When the vehicle reference point reaches the acceleration point, the throttle shall be rapidly and fully opened. The throttle shall be held open until the vehicle reference point reaches the end point or until the maximum rpm is reached within the end zone, at which point the throttle shall be closed. Wheel slip shall be avoided.

(d) Deceleration. Tests during deceleration shall be conducted when deceleration noise seems excessive. The vehicle shall approach the end point from the reverse direction at maximum rpm in the same gear selected for acceleration. When the vehicle reference point reaches the end point, the throttle shall be rapidly closed and the vehicle shall be allowed to decelerate to less than 50 percent of maximum rpm.

(e) Engine Temperature. The engine temperature shall be within normal operating range for each test run.

(f) Weight. For testing purposes, the combined weight of the driver and any test equipment he carries shall not be more than 175 nor less than 165 pounds. Weights shall be used to compensate for any difference between the actual driver/equipment load and the required 165 pound minimum.

Specific Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.56, 17-18.560.

#### **62-18.570 Vehicle Sound Level.**

The sound level reading for a new motor vehicle shall be obtained as follows:

(1) Preliminary Runs. Sufficient preliminary runs shall be made to enable the test driver to become familiar with the operation of the vehicle and to stabilize engine operating conditions.

(2) Test Runs. At least four test runs shall be made for each side of the vehicle. When the exhaust outlet is more than 16 feet from the front of the vehicle with a gross weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more, at least two runs shall be made for each

side of the vehicle using both the primary and secondary vehicle reference points defined in subsection 62-18.510(5), F.A.C., of this part. At least two additional runs shall be made from the reference point that gives the highest readings.

(3) **Reported Sound Level.** The reported A-weighted sound level for each side of the vehicle shall be the average of the two highest readings on that side which are within 2 dB of each other. The sound level reported for the vehicle shall be the sound level of the loudest side.

Specific Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.57, 17-18.570.

**62-18.580 Reference. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061 FS. Law Implemented 403.021, 403.061, 403.414(3) FS., Chapter 74-110, Laws of Florida. History—New 11-27-74, Formerly 17-18.58, 17-18.580, Repealed 2-16-12.

PART III  
EXHAUST SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

**62-18.700 General. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 40.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.70, 17-18.700, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.710 Definitions. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.71, 17-18.710, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.720 Instrumentation. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.72, 17-18.720, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.730 Instrument Calibration. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.73, 17-18.730, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.740 Personnel. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.74, 17-18.740, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.750 Meter Operation. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.75, 17-18.750, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.760 Light Trucks, Buses and Passenger Cars. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.76, 17-18.760, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.770 Heavy Trucks, Truck Tractors, and Buses. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.77, 17-18.770, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.780 Motorcycles and Motor-Driven Cycles. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.78, 17-18.780, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.790 Exception. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.79, 17-18.790, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.800 Certification. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.80, 17-18.800, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.810 Data. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.81, 17-18.810, Repealed 2-16-12.

**62-18.820 Effective Date. (Repealed)**

Rulemaking Authority 403.061(7), 403.061(13), 403.415 FS. Law Implemented 403.415, 403.415(8) FS. History—New 7-19-77, Formerly 17-18.82, 17-18.820, Repealed 2-16-12.