

Comment from Edward Schorr

As a consumer who will eventually purchase an EV, I feel that the sounds the vehicle make should not be limited to what the manufacturer may limit the sound suite to be. Some people love their cars and also like to customize their cars. I feel that the final rule should include options for consumers to be able to upload optional sounds that meet criteria which will allow pedestrians to know that a car is approaching. One option would be that the sound should be reasonably close to or mimic the sound of a motor vehicle and be loud enough at differing speeds such that, a pedestrian who is not paying attention or is seeing impaired, would recognize that a motor vehicle is approaching.

In addressing consumer's needs to customize their vehicle, this might allow a driver of an EV to have their vehicle sound like a car they owned in their past, a vehicle they may feel sounds interesting or a fictional vehicle from a movie. While not available in the U.S., the Renault Clio did something like this with the internal engine sounds. Why not have the ability for the end user of the vehicle have approved options?

There may not be a huge market for aftermarket EV external safety sounds, but there will be a market. I would personally like to be able to purchase a VW EV and have it sound like an old air-cooled VW. The sounds would need to be tested and approved to be loaded into the vehicle's computer. The requirements for these sounds will be written into the final rule so leaving an option for the consumer to use a non-OEM would be preferred.