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## **Railway noise abatement: the implementation in Switzerland**

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In October 2000 the Swiss federal law on railway noise abatement was enacted. These noise abatement measures are financed by a federal fund which was accepted by the Swiss electorate in 1998 within a package of railway infrastructure projects. The general objective is defined by protecting at least 2/3 of the actually annoyed population. The reduction of the noise impact will be achieved with retrofitting the entire Swiss rolling stock by replacing cast iron blocks with composite blocks until 2009. Noise barriers with a required length of 300 kms will be essential above all along the freight transit lines to protect highly annoyed inhabitants during the night period. Buildings with residual values above the general noise reception limit are entitled to financial contributions for insulation measures. Further elements within the program or as supporting measures are the implementation of an emission ceiling, a low noise bonus on track access charges, noise emission limits for new and improved vehicles and a monitoring programme to observe the noise development by continuous noise emission measurements until June 2015.

*The complete document was not available at the publication time. It has been replaced by the submitted abstract.*