Regulations and policies pertaining to noise management originate from various organizations, including those standards set by the ICAO, Transport Canada and the GTAA. The federal Aeronautics Act and the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs) support the ICAO standards and set Canadian procedures relating to aircraft noise certification and operations. It is important to note that aviation is federally regulated, and therefore municipal bylaws, such as noise bylaws, are not applicable to aviation activity.

In June 2001, on the basis of recommendations made during the fifth session of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP/5), the ICAO Council adopted a new Chapter 4 noise standard that is more stringent than standards contained in Chapter 3. This new standard requires a minimum of 10 decibel cumulative reduction over Chapter 3, meaning that aircraft noise levels are reduced a total of 10 decibels when noise at the three takeoff fly over, takeoff sideline and approach measurement points are summed.