

Night Flight Quiet Periods - Summary

How NAV CANADA & the GTAA define the “night quiet period”:

Currently Pearson International Airport has a night quiet period from 00:30 to 6:29 during which 39 flights are allowed. This time period does not match when most people are trying to sleep. The quiet period is significantly shorter than many other airports of similar or greater rankings for airport traffic.

Comparison Data:

At the Worldwide Air Transport Conference held in Montreal, March 18 – 22, 2013 the ICAO noted that many airports had some sort of curfew in place with respect to night flights (http://www.icao.int/Meetings/atconf6/Documents/WorkingPapers/ATConf6-wp008_en.pdf).

Figure 1

Airports subject to night flight restrictions	
Region	Number of airports
Europe	126
Africa	5
Middle East	6
Asia/Pacific	15
North America	81
Latin America/Caribbean	8
World	241

Figure 2

International airports subject to night flight restrictions	
Region	Number of airports
Europe	107
Africa	5
Middle East	3
Asia/Pacific	13
North America	25
Latin America/Caribbean	8
World	161

A review of a number of International airports, all handling larger volumes of passenger traffic than Pearson (<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2012/may/04/world-top-100-airports>), show that their quiet night quota period is longer than Pearson’s night quota period. It also shows the number of permitted flights is less.

Airport	Night Quota Period	Limit On Planes	Ranking re Passenger Traffic
Frankfurt	Core night period is 23:00 – 5:00 with a shoulder period of 22:00 – 6:00	Total ban during core period with 133 flights permitted during shoulder	9
Heathrow, UK	23:30 – 6:00	16	3
Munich, Germany	22:00 – 6:00 but true core is 00:00 – 5:00	28, but virtually none through the core of 00:00 – 5:00	27
Sydney, Australia	23:00 – 6:00 a.m.	Operates according	31

(However Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane all have the same curfew times)		the Sydney Airport Curfew Act, 1995. Generally no jets during this period. Limited # during shoulder of 11-12 pm and 5-6 am for international flights and must fly over Botany Bay and not residential areas. Fine of up to \$550K if curfew breached.	
Tokyo, Japan	23:00 – 6:00	Flights only allowed between 23:00 and 00:00 for international flights during bad weather or exceptional circumstances.	5
Toronto, Canada	00:30 – 6:29	39	35 ¹

¹ As of 2013