

GUIDANCE NOTES – NOISE

NOISE AT WORK

It is the policy of this Company to comply with the Noise Regulations in so far as they affect our own employees and those persons not in the employ of the Company.

Where any doubt exists as to whether any machinery or plant owned or used by Company employees has a noise output in excess of 85dB(A), or a peak output in excess of 200 Pascals, then a noise survey will be carried out by a competent person to ascertain the actual levels.

Where the level is less than 85dB(A) no further action is necessary, although it is the policy of the Company to keep all noise to a minimum level consistent with good commercial practice.

Where the level exceeds 85dB(A), but is less than 90dB(A), then all persons affected shall be advised of the survey results, instructed about industrial hearing loss and advised to wear hearing protection. The Company shall supply, maintain and replace such protection free of charge.

Should the survey reveal levels of over 90dB(A), and/or a peak level of over 200 Pascals then the Company shall do all that is possible to reduce these levels, as far as is reasonably practicable.

Identified areas shall be marked as Ear Protection Zones in accordance with BS 5378, and the wearing of hearing protection shall be made mandatory.

Where it is foreseeable that employees operating a machine are likely to be exposed to noise levels in excess of 90 dB (A) then that machine is to be marked as in the previous paragraph.

Employees have a duty under these regulations to wear protection provided.

Records will be kept of all surveys and subsequent action taken.

Where subsequent changes in work practices make a survey no longer valid then the above will be repeated for the new conditions that prevail.

Suppliers of new machines are to be requested to supply details of the expected noise levels of any new machines purchased.

ACTIVITY	LIKELY NOISE EXPOSURE	
	LEP, d	
	Average	Range
Agent (up to 50% day on site)	< 80	
Asphalt paving	< 85	
Blasting	100 +	
Bricklayer	83	81 - 85
Carpenter	92	86 - 96
Concrete		
Chipping/drilling	85 +	
Floor finishing	85	
Grinding	85 +	
Concrete worker	89	84 - 92
Crushing: Mill worker	85 +	
Driver		
Crawler tractor	85 +	
Dumper	85 +	
Excavator	< 85	
Grader	85 +	
Loader	< 85	
Roller	85 +	
Wheeled loader	89	
Wheeled tractor	< 85	
Engineer: Supervising pour	96	
Engineer: Surveying	< 80	
Foreman: Supervising workers	80	
Formwork setter	92	89 - 93
Ganger: Concrete pour	93	92 - 93
Ganger: General work	94	
Guniting	85 +	
Labourer: Concrete pour	97	95 - 98
Labourer: Digging/scabbling	100	
Labourer: General work	84	
Labourer: Shovelling hardcore	94	
Labourer: shuttering	91	
M & E installer		
General	89	82 - 96
Small work	84	78 - 89
Piling operator	85 +	
Piling worker	100 +	
Reinforcement worker		
Building site	86	82 - 89
Bending yard	84	77 - 87
Sandblasting	85	