

Noise at Work

Control of Noise at Work 2005

It is an established fact that excessive noise causes damage to hearing. If the exposure is brief, the damage may be temporary. However in employment exposure can be repetitive and long term which can result in permanent hearing damage and deafness. In 1989 the Noise at Work Regulations were introduced. These regulations were superceded by The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005. These regulations impose tighter limits on noise exposure to reduce the risk of noise induced deafness of employees, and place more emphasis on the need to take action to reduce exposure levels. There are “Action Levels” defined in the Regulations. These are:

- Lower Action Value: A daily/weekly noise exposure of 80 $dBL_{Ep,d}$
- Upper Action Value: A daily/weekly noise exposure of 85 $dBL_{Ep,d}$
- Exposure Limit Value: A maximum exposure of 87 $dBL_{Ep,d}$

There is a duty on employers to reduce the risk of excessive exposure to noise for their employees. The risk must be assessed and employees informed of it. Where action is shown to be needed, a noise control action plan must be implemented. SRL can offer advice on:

- Noise at Work Risk Assessments
- Noise Dosimetry
- Advice on Hearing Protectors
- Design of Noise Control Measures
- Design of Buildings to contain/reduce noise
- Action Plans for Noise Control
- Noise induced Deafness Claims - Expert Witness Service

Major clients and projects include:

- Birds Eye (Nomad Foods)
- AstraZeneca
- JCB Backhoe Division
- Coca Cola Enterprises
- Ball Packaging Uk Ltd
- Hydro Aluminium



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SRL Technical Services

SRL was founded in 1967 and has grown to be the most accomplished acoustic consultancy in the UK. It has expanded in recent years to offer air quality and BREEAM expertise from in-house specialists. Our capabilities are broad, ranging from initial constraints mapping, planning support, performance prediction, design, inspection, troubleshooting, measurement and commissioning. We have been involved in many major developments in the UK and worldwide; we bring the experience from these projects to all of our work. With nearly 50 staff in offices in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Suffolk and South Africa, we can cope with the largest projects and work to our clients' often tight timescales. 85% of our work is repeat business, which shows the close relationships and reputation we develop with our clients. At our headquarters in Suffolk we also have an acoustic and airflow test laboratory where we support our own and our clients' projects. This work is done under the accreditation of a UKAS quality assurance system.

Acoustics

Having worked as acoustic consultants for over half a century, we are proud to have contributed to a number of major projects across the UK and the rest of the world. Our team bring a wealth of experience to every project, whether it be planning, performance prediction, design, inspection, troubleshooting, measurement or commissioning. We have developed an industry-leading approach to acoustic consultancy and provide independent support on anything where noise or vibration is an issue using the latest measurement equipment and computer modelling programs. We believe in delivering quality acoustic advice and by appointing us at an early stage in the project we can advise on the acoustic design and avoid any retrospective building works if appointed later. When working with us, you can expect excellent, cost-effective solutions developed by professionals and presented in a language you understand. We are members of the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) and all of our consultants are members of the Institute of Acoustics (IOA).