



Toolbox Talk: Noise Control Briefing

Noise has a huge impact on people and the environment. It can cause **stress** to surrounding residents as well as causing damage to people's hearing.



11,000 workers reported work-related hearing problems, there were 85 new cases of occupational deafness, and it is estimated that over **2 million workers** are exposed to excessive noise every year.

Noise Complaints & Measures

Between 2022 and 2023, there were a total of **11,338 noise complaints** received by district councils, and 634 of those were due to construction and industrial noise.

Failure to implement adequate noise control measures on site can result in: work improvement notices, noise abatement notices, or prosecution.



Symptoms from **inadequate noise controls** measures include:

- Hearing loss
- Tinnitus
- Disturbed sleep
- Mental health issues
- Stress
- Impaired memory
- Reduced quality of life

Examples of activities that create dangerous noise levels include:

- Saws and cutting machinery: 85 to 107dB
- Jack hammer drilling: 125dB
- Pneumatic noise and compressed air: 85 to 95dB
- Milling operations: 85 to 100dB
- Electric drilling: 94dB



Noise Regulations Actions:

80dB- Information and training

85dB- Hearing protection and checks

87dB- Maximum exposure limit

Ear Protection

Workers can be supplied with earplugs, ear defenders or ear canal caps.

To stay safe on site, you **should always be able to hear safety warnings and alarms**. It is therefore advisable to select your hearing protection based on the nature of the job.



The standard hours during which reasonable noise is acceptable, is between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, however a **section 61 agreement** might allow you to work outside of this. In any case, you must be able to demonstrate that you are actively trying to **reduce noise exposure** to people outside of your site.



Noise Control Solutions

Contractors **must** be able to demonstrate that you are **actively trying to reduce noise exposure** to people outside of your site.



Each site is different and therefore requires a different approach, but generally speaking, perimeter noise barriers can provide a cost-effective solution for controlling background site noise, whereas acoustic enclosures are far more effective at containing intensive activities, such as breaking or cutting.



This Toolbox Talk is available as a video, watch it online now!



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