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## Noise at Work Environmental Solutions

Noise can have a significant effect upon our health, quality of life and the environment. This flyer provides an update on the current status of the Noise at Work regulations for organisations.

Call **+44 (0)1224 702711** for further information or visit [www.tycofis.co.uk](http://www.tycofis.co.uk) and find out how we can become a vital part of your world.

*a vital part of your world*



## The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005

These regulations are aimed at preventing induced hearing loss for any employee whilst at work. The regulations define the action to be taken by the responsible person - usually the employer.

### Why Do Noise Regulations exist?

Noise regulations exist to prevent damage to the hearing of workers from excessive noise at work. The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 states that action has to be taken if noise causes risks to personnel other than hearing damage. This may include high and low frequency noise at low levels.

### Who Do They Apply To?

Noise regulations apply to all workers in Great Britain (including self employed and home workers). The 1997 Electricity and Noise Regulations also apply to offshore activities covered by the Health & Safety at Work Act.

### Who is Responsible for Controlling Noise?

Employers are legally responsible for noise reduction to acceptable levels within the workplace. Employees must also co-operate with their employer's noise reduction programme to prevent hearing damage. There are also legal responsibilities for machinery designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers.

### When is Action Required?

There are three primary noise levels that determine the appropriate action to be taken by the employer:

1. Lower Exposure Action Value
  - (a) 80dB (A) daily personal noise exposure, and
  - (b) 135dB (C) peak sound pressure
2. Upper Exposure Action Value
  - (a) 85dB (A) daily personal noise exposure, and
  - (b) 137dB (C) peak sound pressure
3. Exposure Limit Value
  - (a) 87dB (A) daily personal noise exposure, and
  - (b) 140dB (C) peak sound pressure



### What Action Should be Taken?

Under the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1992, adequate health surveillance should be provided through audiometry. Noise assessments must always be carried out by a competent person.

### Final Thought

Generally, noise is likely to be at dangerous levels when people have to shout, or have difficulty being heard clearly by someone 2m away. If you think you have a workplace noise problem, we can help. With over 20 years experience, Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions can offer a full workplace noise assessment to comply with current legislation. Our management systems are accredited to BS EN ISO 9001:2000 (Quality Assurance), BS ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental Management) and OHSAS 18001:2007 (Occupational Health and Safety). We have also achieved Investors in People certification.

Should you have any further questions regarding Noise Regulations, and how they may impact your workplace operations, please do not hesitate to contact:

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