

Noise at Work Regulations 2005
BHPMS-“QUICK GUIDE”

(For more detail see HSE Web site)

Levels of exposure of employees to PEAK sound pressure levels

140	Limit Value – Peak (C)
137	2nd Action Level : Peak (C)
135	1st Action Level : Peak (C)

Levels of exposure to noise of employees, averaged over a working day or week

87	Maximum Exposure Limit Value The Noise Exposure of any employee, including the use of hearing protection, must be below 87dB(A) LEX,8h. Compulsory PPE in affected areas
85	2nd Action Level : 85 dB(A) LEX , 8h Workers have the right to hearing checks where the noise assessments indicate a risk of hearing damage.
80	1st Action Level: 80db(A) LEX, 8h Where the noise exposure is likely to exceed the 1 st action level, taking no account of hearing protection: All employees at risk must be identified. Noise warning signs must be clearly displayed. Noise assessment reviews when changes are made. Noise assessments repeated at least every two years. Employees informed of the risk of hearing damage. A choice of suitable PPE made available on request. Training and education provided.

Weekly Noise Exposure Level

Where the noise exposure of a worker varies markedly from day to day, a weekly average based on five 8 hour measurements can be used to assess the risk against the action levels and the Maximum Exposure Limit Value.

General Duties and Requirements

The employer is required to reduce the risk of noise exposure to the lowest practical level. Records must be kept and made available for noise measurements, audiometry results (where available) and the company policy on noise control.
The employer must implement a “Buy Quiet” policy for all new equipment and plant to reduce the noise exposure of employees.