

The Safety and Health at Work Act 2005

The Workplace (Noise) Regulations 2007

The Minister in exercise of the powers conferred on him in section 105 of the Safety and Health at Work Act, makes the following regulations.

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| Citation and Commencement | 1. | These regulations may be cited as the Workplace (Noise) Regulations 2007. |
| Application | 2. | These regulations apply to all premises that are workplaces within the meaning of the Safety and Health at Work Act. |
| Definitions | 3. | For the purposes of these regulations - <ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) "A-weighting" means making graded adjustments in the intensities of sound of various frequencies for the purpose of noise measurement, so that the sound pressure level measured by an instrument more closely reflects the response of the human ear to the sound measured.(b) "dB" is the short form of decibel.(c) "dBA" refers to the sound level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter operating on the A-weighting network.(d) "frequency" is the rate of pressure variations expressed in cycles per second or hertz.(e) "impulse or impact noise" is characterised by a sharp rise and rapid decay in sound levels and is less than 1 second in duration and is repeated after a delay of more than 1 second.(f) "noise" means any audible sound.(g) "qualified person" includes the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) a person registered as an audiologist or speech therapist in accordance with sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Paramedical Professions Act, Cap. 372C; or(ii) a medical practitioner who is suitably trained to |

conduct auditory examinations. Medical practitioner has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Medical Registration Act, Cap. 371; or

(iii) a nurse who is suitably trained to conduct auditory examinations and is registered in accordance with the Paramedical Professions Act. Nurse has the same meaning as in section 2 or the Nurses and Midwives (Registration) Act, Cap. 372; or

(iv) a person authorised by the Chief Labour Officer.

Protection
Against
Noise

4. (1)(a) In every workplace, suitable engineering control or administrative measures shall be taken to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that no person employed is exposed to sound levels exceeding the maximum permissible noise exposure levels specified in the schedule to these regulations.

(b) In the case of impulse or impact noise, no exposure in excess of 140 dB peak sound pressure level as measured by setting the sound level meter at the position designed for reading impulse or impact noise, shall be permitted.

(2) When the daily noise exposure is composed of two or more periods of noise exposure at different levels their combined effect shall be considered, rather than the individual effect of each. The mixed exposure shall be considered to exceed the limit value if the sum of the fraction:

$$\frac{C_1}{T_1} + \frac{C_2}{T_2} + \dots + \frac{C_n}{T_n}$$

exceeds unity.

Where C_1, C_2 etc. indicate the total time of actual exposure at a specified noise level and T_1, T_2 , etc. denote the time of exposure permissible at that level.

(3) Where it is not possible to reduce the noise exposure to the levels specified in the schedule to these regulations by reasonably practicable engineering control or administrative measures, the noise exposure shall be reduced to the greatest extent feasible by such control measures, and each worker so exposed shall be provided with and required to wear suitable

ear protection so as to reduce the exposure to noise to the levels specified in the said schedule.

- (4) Where the hearing protection provided in accordance with paragraph (3) and worn by an employee cannot still attenuate the noise reaching near his ear to a level permissible as per the limits given in the schedule to these regulations, the noise exposure period shall be suitably reduced to correspond to the permissible noise exposures specified in that schedule.

- (5)(a) In all cases where the prevailing sound levels exceed the permissible levels specified in the schedule to these regulations there shall be administered an effective hearing conservation programme which shall include pre-employment and periodical auditory surveys conducted on employees exposed to noise exceeding the permissible levels. Where employees are found to have identifiable hearing damage, the employer shall reduce those workers' exposure to noise levels by suitable means.

- (b) Every person employed in areas where the noise exceeds the maximum permissible exposure levels specified in the schedule to these regulations shall be subjected to an auditory examination by a qualified person within 12 weeks of his first employment and thereafter, shall be re-examined at least once in every 12 months. Such initial and periodical examinations shall include tests which the qualified person may consider appropriate, and shall include determination of auditory thresholds for pure tones of 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 6000 and 8000 cycles per second.

- (6) Where the noise level to which workers are exposed exceeds 80 dBA but is below 85 dBA, the employer shall:
 - (i) provide employees so exposed with information, instruction and training regarding the effects of noise;
 - (ii) make hearing protection available to workers so exposed.

5. (1) A record of each examination carried out by the qualified person as required in regulation 4 paragraph 5(b) shall be maintained by him in the form as approved by the Chief Medical Officer. A copy of the completed form shall be provided by the qualified person to the concerned employer.
- (2) Every employer shall ensure that adequate records are kept of the surveys required by regulation 4 paragraph 5(a) and the auditory examinations by the qualified person required by paragraph 5(b).
- (3) All records of surveys and auditory examinations mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be kept by the employer in respect of whose employees the surveys and examinations were carried out, either in the workplace or in his office.
- (4) A record of any survey or examination required to be maintained shall be preserved for 20 years from the date on which the record was completed.
- (5) If an employee in respect of whom examinations as required by regulation 4 paragraph 5(b) were carried out ceases to be in the employment of the concerned employer before the expiry of the period of 20 years mentioned in paragraph (4), all records of such examinations shall be transferred within a period of 15 days from the date on which the employee ceases to be in the employment of the employer to the authority as prescribed by the Chief Labour Officer and the employee informed of such transfer.
- (6) All records shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by an Inspector and the person keeping any such records shall send to the Inspector such extracts therefrom or copies thereof as the Inspector may from time to time require for the purpose of execution of his duties under the Act.
- (7) The records respecting auditory reports on each individual employee shall be made available for inspection by the concerned individual or such other person as authorised by him.

Exemption

6. The Chief Labour Officer may (subject to such conditions as may be specified therein) by certificate in writing (which he may at his discretion revoke at any time) exempt from all or any of the requirements in these regulations -

- (a) any particular workplace or class of workplaces; or
- (b) any particular plant or equipment or any class or description of such plants or equipment;

if he is satisfied that the requirements in respect of which the exemption is granted are not necessary for the protection of the persons employed or are not reasonably practicable.

Made by the Minister this day of 2007.

SCHEDULE

Permissible Noise Exposures

Maximum Duration per Day	Sound Level (dBA)
8 hours	85
6 hours 21 minutes	86
5 hours 2 minutes	87
4 hours	88
3 hours 11 minutes	89
2 hours 31 minutes	90
2 hours	91
1 hour 35 minutes	92
1 hour 16 minutes	93
1 hour	94
48 minutes	95
38 minutes	96
30 minutes	97
24 minutes	98
19 minutes	99
15 minutes	100
12 minutes	101
9 minutes	102
7.5 minutes	103
6 minutes	104
5 minutes	105
4 minutes	106
3 minutes	107
2.5 minutes	108
2 minutes	109
1.5 minutes	110
1 minute	111
56 seconds	112
45 seconds	113
35 seconds	114
30 seconds	115 or more