



Policy for the Control of Noise at Work

Working in a noisy environment may result in the ill health of employees, which include the following:

- Temporary or permanent damage to hearing, including noise induced hearing loss;
- Fatigue and stress;
- Tinnitus (ringing, whistling, buzzing or humming in the ears), a distressing condition that can lead to disturbed sleep.

All of the above may result in lower than normal performance in the workplace and so in addition to preventing ill health there are real commercial benefits to be obtained from a noise control programme.

The purpose of this policy is to state the responsibilities for noise control at work, such that any ill health risks are eliminated or reduced to as low a level as is reasonably practicable.

Manager Responsibilities

1. You must ensure that all noise hazards within your area of control are identified. In addition you must estimate, and where necessary measure, the likely exposure.
2. You must identify relevant control measures and record your findings in an action plan. The aim is to protect your employees by eliminating or reducing risks using good practice and ensuring that no legal limits are exceeded
3. You must provide hearing protection for those at risk (having already given consideration to other means of noise control) as well as providing and managing hearing protection zones.
4. You must consult workers, and/or their representatives and allow their participation and provide information, instruction and training about the noise risk to employees, control measures in place, the hearing protection provided and safe working practices. You must provide health surveillance (hearing checks) for those at risk and use the results to review controls and further protect individuals.
6. You must maintain any noise-control equipment and hearing protection, and ensure that anything supplied is fully and properly used.
7. You must review the arrangements for control of noise at work whenever there is a change to a work practice, a change in noise exposure or new ways are uncovered to reduce risks.

Employee Responsibilities

1. You must co-operate with the arrangements for the control of noise at work, including attending for hearing checks.
2. You must use the noise control measures provided and report any defects.
3. You must make full and proper use of the hearing protection provided, especially where its use is mandatory.

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