

## **Part 13**

# **NOISE MANAGEMENT**

## 13.0. NOISE MANAGEMENT

### 13.1. Noise Management Policy Overview

JG King Projects shall demonstrate commitment and compliance to the objectives of Noise Management. JG King Projects will comply with the requirements of the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, the Occupational Health and Regulations 2007, the relevant Industry and Australian Standards.

### 13.2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidelines to all JG King Projects' employees and contractors in relation to noise within the workplace.

### 13.3. Scope

This Policy applies directly to employees of JG King Projects, but may be used as guidance tool for contractors engaged by JG King Projects.

### 13.4. Responsibilities

The Policy apply equally to all employees of JG King Projects. However, staff in supervisory positions are to be particularly aware of the contents of this Policy and its potential application to other workers (i.e., contractors) in the workplace.

### 13.5. Definition

The work '**noise**' is used to denote sound, especially when it is unwanted, unpleasant or loud.

### 13.6. Details

Excessive noise at work may cause permanent hearing loss and is probably the most common cause of hearing loss in adults. A person with hearing loss will have difficulty communicating with others at work and at home and the enjoyment of social activities is reduced. There is no medical treatment and hearing aids are of limited benefit.

Noise can: —

- Distract attention.
- Be annoying or of nuisance value without any permanent affect.
- Drown out the sound of a malfunctioning machine, an alarm signal or a warning shout.

Trying to hear people in noisy surroundings requires extra concentration and strain.

Messages or instructions can be misunderstood, creating confusion, frustration and safety problems. Constant shouting to be heard above noise can lead to throat and voice disorders. Noise makes it difficult to concentrate and adds to the fatigue of work.

A result of excessive noise can result in a ringing, buzzing or roaring sound in the ears. It can be very disturbing and can interfere with sleep. Studies indicate high noise levels are associated with high levels of absenteeism and staff turnover. This adds to production costs. Noise is one of the most common hazards/operations of construction work.

A risk situation is: —

Any situation where noise makes it necessary for someone to raise their voice to talk to another person one metre away. This is about the level of heavy traffic.

Any one of the exposures shown below is the maximum permissible in a day averaged over eight hours [85dB (A) limit].

(A)	Time (Minutes)	Equipment (Example)
103	7.5	Chain Saw
100	15	Circular Saw
97	30	Power Planer
94	60	Jig Saw
91	120	Disco Sander
88	240	Electric Drill
85	480	Front End Loader

Control Risks by: —

- Setting priorities to treat existing noisy equipment.
- Establishing a 'Buy Quiet' purchasing program for quieter equipment.
- Redesigning noisy machines and processes to produce less noise.
- Putting noisy machines and processes in separate rooms, or use ceiling-high partitions.
- Enclosing noisy machines and processes with sound insulating panels.
- Fitting silencers on exhaust systems.
- Issuing Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. ear muffs or plugs) where other control measures are not possible.

(Note: For every 10 decibel increase, the intensity of the noise increases 10 times).

### **13.7. Noise Management Procedure**

A worker or site management deems noise may be an issue in relation to works conducted (either personal and/or environmental noise exposure). Refer to Noise Management guidelines i.e. Code of Practice/Compliance Code for further information.

Determine whether noise (if excessive) can be controlled at the source. If in doubt, contact the designated Health and Safety Manager.

If noise cannot be controlled at the source consider other control options (i.e. use of PPE, restrict use of equipment to certain hours of operation etc).

If noise can be controlled at the source then control noise source (i.e. use of muffler, silencer etc).

Records of surveys and risk assessments relating to specific functions and tasks are to be maintained.

Maintain survey assessments with copies to be forwarded to the respective Administration Office.

### **13.8. Record Keeping**

Records of any surveys in relation to workplaces and equipment are to be maintained together with any personal audiometry monitoring (as required).