

Noise

Overview

Division 4 Clause 49 of the NSW OH&S Regulation 2001 mandates that an employer must implement control measures if a person is exposed to noise levels that:

- (a) exceed an 8 hour equivalent of 85 dB(A) or
- (b) peak at more than 140 dB(C)

Clause 49 also mandates that noise level measurement is to be made in accordance with AS/NSZ 1269.1:1998 Occupational noise management Part 1: Measurement and assessment of noise emission and exposure.

In order to manage noise hazards effectively and to comply with the regulation management must:

- Identify areas where persons may be exposed to noise levels that exceed the statutory level
- Take steps to minimise risk of hearing loss by reducing the noise levels as far as practicable
- Where noise levels cannot be reduced provide appropriate hearing protection and training

Comparatively speaking UWS is a relatively “quiet” working environment when compared to other workplaces such as factories, mines or construction sites.

Some areas however eg workshops, plant rooms etc are regarded as high noise areas and should be identified as such by using appropriate information on the outside of the facility. This can be done using approved signage warning person(s) to wear hearing protectors whilst inside and by making the hearing protectors readily available.

In the first instance noise levels should be managed through the design of facilities and the purchase of “low noise” plant and equipment. If noise cannot be eliminated entirely or reduced below the legally specified limits then personal protective equipment and training will be provided.

If you believe there may be a problem with excessive noise in your area or you require more information about noise management please contact your supervisor or the OH&S Unit.

The [WorkCover NSW website](#) also provides answers to some common questions regarding noise management.