Noise and vibration

What?

- the construction industry is one of the leading sources of noise complaints made to local authorities
- something is considered “noisy” when the sound is unwanted by the listener
- noise and vibration emissions can disturb local residents and give rise to complaints and delays
- noisy activities include: excavation, tunnelling, concrete cutting, piling, using un-silenced generators and concrete pours.

Why?

- **avoid environmental harm:** noise can disturb wildlife as well as humans
- **avoid prosecution:** failing to meet noise constraints can result in fines
- **avoid programme delay:** the local authority have the power to stop works if noise from the site is causing a nuisance
- **avoid structural damage:** vibration may cause structural damage
- **public relations:** avoid complaints and maintain good relations with the local community.

Questions

1 Are there areas where undue noise might cause annoyance to anyone?

Do

- ✓ if possible, restrict noisy activities to certain times of the day
- ✓ adhere to working hours – some sites are only consented to work at certain times
- ✓ plan deliveries by arranging routes and times to minimise potential nuisance to the local community
- ✓ if possible, keep noisy plant away from public areas
- ✓ minimise drop heights into hoppers, lorries and other plant
- ✓ use local screening where necessary
  - noise can be reduced if a screen is placed between plant and a nearby sensitive location, ie house
  - screens can be straw bales or ply board
- ✓ use silenced generators and tower lights where necessary
- ✓ keep acoustic doors, hoods and panels on plant closed – it does make a difference

2 What unduly noisy operations are being undertaken on this project?

3 Where might vibration cause a problem?

4 What precautions can be taken to reduce noise and vibration on this site?

- ✓ minimise vehicles and plant reversing – plan work to incorporate one way systems
- ✓ if in doubt, contact a line manager.

Don’t

- ✗ undertake noisy works outside of normal working hours, in the evening, at night or early in the morning
- ✗ leave doors and hoods open on plant
- ✗ leave plant running unnecessarily
- ✗ use poorly maintained plant
- ✗ ignore complaints from the local community. Respond politely and pass the complaint onto a line manager
- ✗ shout or talk loudly where this could cause annoyance
- ✗ undertake activities that could cause damage to nearby structures through vibration unless approved by a line manager.

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Title:

Given by: **Date:**

Site:

Name	Company	Signature

For further information please contact a member of the Environment Team