

TOOLBOX TALK

No4

NOISE AND VIBRATION

WHAT?

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?

- To act as a good neighbour:** avoid complaints and maintain good relations with the local community
- To avoid programme delay:** The Local Authority have the power to stop works if noise from the site is causing a nuisance
- To avoid fines:** Failing to meet noise constraints can result in fines.
- To avoid structural damage:** vibration may cause structural damage
- To comply with contractual requirements**
- To prevent harm to wildlife:** Noise can disturb wildlife as well as humans

DO's

- ✓ If possible, restrict noisy activities to certain times of the day.
- ✓ DO adhere to working hours. Some sites are only consented to work at certain times.
- ✓ DO plan deliveries. Arrange 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 near by sensitive location ie house. Screens can be straw bales or ply board.
- ✓ DO use silenced generators and tower lights where necessary.
- ✓ DO keep acoustic doors and hoods on plant closed – it does make a difference!
- ✓ DO contact your Line Manager if you are in doubt.

DON'Ts

- ✗ DON'T undertake noisy works during the evening, at night time or very early in the morning if it can be avoided!
- ✗ DON'T leave doors and hoods open on plant.
- ✗ DON'T leave plant running unnecessarily.
- ✗ DON'T use poorly maintained plant.
- ✗ DON'T ignore complaints from the Local Community.
- ✗ DON'T undertake activities that could cause damage to nearby structures through vibration unless approved by your line manager.