



# ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

## TOPIC – CONTROLLING NOISE

### Summary Information:

Management is responsible to monitor and control noise levels created by your business activities. Excessive noise levels can cause permanent hearing impairment. The incidence of hearing impairment increases as the exposure to noise increases. Hearing deteriorates naturally with age, which can make it difficult to assess the cause and effect of any impairment.

Noise levels are cumulative and increase with each extra noise sound. Conversely, noise can be reduced by eliminating sounds.

Excessive noise levels always have an adverse affect on your staff and neighbours.

A factory radio can often be as damaging to hearing as your factory equipment.

Noises from small businesses come under local government control.

### Good Practice Risk Control:

- Get rid of excessively noisy operations by changing the equipment or process or by out sourcing the operation.
- Isolate noisy operations such as body repair, using angle grinders and continuous hammering by making sure that they are carried out away from other people or by confining noisy activities to sound proofed enclosures.
- Where practical, avoid using noisy equipment, like air chisels and air operated descenders.
- Silence air operated equipment such as impact wrenches.
- Do not operate noisy equipment outside of business hours if it disturbs neighbours.
- Use warning signs to remind people to wear hearing protection and reduce noise.
- Conduct noise tests and then work systematically to reduce noise
- If noise prevents normal conversation, noise level tests must be conducted by a competent person and then work systematically to reduce noise.
- Have staff that work in noisy environment undergo an annual hearing check.
- Obtain staff agreement to have several small radios tuned to the same station rather than to have one radio with the volume turned up.
- Have operators and effected others wear earplugs, or similar devices, when carrying out noisy activities.