



## Noise Management

Management is responsible for monitoring and controlling noise levels created by your business activities. Excessive noise levels can cause permanent hearing impairment to staff, disrupt neighbours and have an adverse affect on the community and environment.

Noise levels are cumulative and increase with each extra sound. On the other hand, noise can be reduced by eliminating sounds. Excessive noise levels always have an adverse affect on your staff and neighbours. A workshop radio can often be as damaging to hearing as your workshop equipment.

Noises from small businesses come under local government control. However, there is legislation and regulations which your business should also abide by. The *Environmental Protection Act 1970* is the Victorian legislation which explains your responsibilities when regarding noise emissions and management. You must also be aware of the *Environment Protection (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2003*, and the *State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade)*. The *Occupational Health and Safety (Noise) Regulations 2004* also govern noise in the workplace.

## Managing Your Noise

- Get rid of excessively noisy operations by changing the equipment or process.
- Isolate noisy operations or equipment (e.g. ensuring your compressor is stored away from staff and neighbours, possibly in a sound proof room).
- Where practical, avoid using noisy equipment, like air chisels and air operated de-scalers.
- Replace old, noisy equipment with new equipment (e.g. battery powered wrenches).
- Silence air operated equipment such as impact wrenches.
- Do not operate noisy equipment outside business hours if it has the potential to disturb residential areas.
- Use warning signs to remind people to wear hearing protection.
- If noise prevents normal conversation, noise level tests must be conducted by a competent person and work must be undertaken to systematically reduce noise.
- Have staff that work in noisy environments undergo a hearing check every two years.
- Have operators and others who are affected wear earplugs, or similar devices, when carrying out noisy activities.

## Environmental Guidelines



### Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

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**Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic.  
Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.**