

FACT SHEET

NOISE



The Work Health and Safety Act (the WHS Act) introduces increased responsibilities on employers regarding noise. We will endeavour to explain the obligations in the simplest terms.

Your safety system needs to be applied equally to contractors as your employees. This factsheet will show you how to manage this complex arrangement and close as many exposure gaps as possible.

Noise can either:

- Cause gradual hearing loss over a period of time due to exposure
- Be so loud that it causes immediate hearing loss.

For each of these levels there limits of what is acceptable. Noise above 140dB1{C} or above 85 dB2(A) for 8 hour continuous period requires specific controls.

Common noise sources and their typical sound levels

Typical sound level in dB	Sound source
140	Jet engine at 30m
130	Rivet hammer (pain can be felt at this threshold)
110	Chain saw
90	Lawn-mower
80	Kerbside Heavy traffic
70	Loud conversation
60	Normal conversation
40	Quiet radio music
30	Whispering
0	Hearing threshold

Audiometric testing:

- Must be conducted if noise levels are above the limits
- Must be provided within three months of the worker commencing work
- Regular follow-up tests must be carried out at least every two years
- You must consult with your workers and their health and safety representatives
- Workers should be given the results of audiometric testing accompanied by a written explanation of the meaning and implications.

Further information is available from the [Managing Noise And Preventing Hearing Loss At Work Code of Practice 2011](#).

Noise is measured in DECIBELS (dB)