

OVERVIEW

The following Safety Practice describes how to manage construction noise on a Perkins project/premise to avoid and/or minimise adverse noise impacts associated with the operation of any plant, machinery or other equipment on site at all times through implementation of construction methodology and appropriate management measures.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Project Manager	Ensure noise risks are considered during planning and delivery. Approve and implement Noise Management Plan (Form 966) , including out-of-hours works, and ensure required resources and stakeholder notifications are completed.
Site Manager / Supervisor	Implement and enforce noise controls on site. Plan and sequence works to minimise noise impacts and ensure compliance with approved working hours. Brief workers and subcontractors and stop non-compliant activities where required.
HSEQ Team	Provide advice on noise controls, monitoring, and legislative compliance. Support development and review of Noise Management Plans, audits, inspections, incident investigations, and audiometric testing coordination where applicable.
Workers, Subcontractors and Plant Operators	Comply with site noise requirements and instructions. Use hearing protection where required and operate plant in accordance with manufacturer and site controls. Maintain noise control equipment, report issues, and participate in inductions and toolbox talks.

1. HAZARDS AND IMPACT

Guidance:

Excessive noise can result in a serious nuisance and loss of amenity for site and surrounding occupants including surrounding residents, site workers and sensitive fauna population. Occupational health risks to site workforce including:

- Noise induced hearing loss, tinnitus, etc.;
- Communication problems including safety instructions;
- Stress.

2. PLANNING AND MONITORING

Guidance:

Perkins Builders recognises the need to monitor noise during construction in order to maintain the health and wellbeing of people who are involved in the works and the amenity of those that work and live in areas adjacent to the site.

Formal noise management plans will be developed as required by legal or contractual requirements, or as deemed necessary as a result of internal risk assessments, audit, and inspections.

The [Noise Management Plan \(Form 966\)](#) will be used.

Where site monitoring identifies potential exceedances of acceptable noise/vibration levels, site practices shall be reviewed and may include implementation of additional mitigation measures.

3. EXPOSURE LEVELS

Guidance:

Noise levels and exposure times.

Noise Level dB(A)	Exposure Time
85	8 hours
88	4 hours
91	2 hours
84	1 hour
87	30 mins
100	15 mins
103	7 ½ mins

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NOISE MANAGEMENT - SAFETY PRACTICE

The 85 dB(A) exposure standard for noise in Western Australia is legally the maximum acceptable exposure level for noise at the workplace. Workplace noise exposure levels therefore must not exceed 85 dB(A) and should be kept below that level where practicable.

The two factors that together cause permanent hearing damage are the loudness of the noise and the length of time a person is exposed to it. The length of time an unprotected worker is able to work (maximum time of exposure) is reduced by half for every 3 decibels (dba) increase in noise level.

If a person/worker is exposed to the following noise levels, Perkins Builders shall ensure that appropriate control measures are taken:

1. In excess of an 8-hour noise level equivalent of 85 dba, or
2. A peak of more than 140 dbc.

Control measures—Control shall be, as far as is practicable, through the progressive implementation of one or more of the following measures:

- Substitution— swapping to a hazard or source with a lower risk level.
- Isolation— removing the hazard from the person or the person from the hazard.
- Minimising by engineering means— physically altering the work environment.
- Minimising by administrative means— designing jobs to reduce workers' exposures.
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)— using devices to protect the hearing of workers.

Activity	Activity Description and Noise Level	Activity	Activity Description and Noise Level
	Normal Conversation 60 decibels Max. Time of Exposure More than a day		Operating a Grinder 97 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 30 Minutes
	Driving a Vehicle 70 decibels Max. Time of Exposure More than a day		At a Rock Concert 100 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 15 Minutes
	Standing on a Busy Road 80 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 24 Hours		Near a Crane 102 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 10 Minutes
	Inside a Noisy Restaurant 84 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 10 Hours		Operating a Jackhammer 105 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 5 Minutes
	Operating a Welder 85 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 8 Hours		Operating a Bulldozer 107 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 3 Minutes
	Operating a Lawnmower 91 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 2 Hours		Using Explosive Power Tool 120 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 10 Seconds
	Operating a Power Tool 94 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 1 Hour		Near Diamond Rock Saw 121 decibels Max. Time of Exposure 5 Seconds

Refer to Appendix A – Equipment Noise Levels

4. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Guidance:

The following noise mitigation measures may be adopted during site project activities:

- Staging of site works to maximise use of the existing site features/facilities as acoustic barriers where possible.
- Personnel must adhere to the site HSE requirements in relation to use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating, or in the vicinity of noise generating plant/equipment.
- Noise and vibration awareness training for all site staff including subcontractors as part of general site induction and toolbox talk activities.
- Strict adherence to approved works times. In the event that out of hours delivery activities are required, the approval process will be completed via consultation with the Project Manager, and the approval of the client.
- Works will be scheduled, where practical, to avoid simultaneous noisy activities occurring on site.
- Vehicles will not be left turned on or idling at the site for longer than minimum amount of time required for completion of any site work activities. In addition, machines/equipment used intermittently during construction activities (i.e. cranes, excavators, bobcats, lifting equipment, etc.) will be shut down, as practicably achievable, in the period between works activities rather than allowed to idle.
- The duration of noise-intensive works will be minimised through a regular review of the program and construction methodologies during project team meetings.

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- The quietest suitable plant reasonably available will be selected for each works activity. This will include review of documentation provided by manufacturers, suppliers, hire companies in relation to equipment prior to delivery to site.
- Regular and effective plant/equipment maintenance will be completed and documented throughout the project period and documentation will be maintained on site demonstrating completion of maintenance logs and associated checklists in order to ensure all machinery is in good working order and use does not generate excess noise/vibration.
- All plant, machinery and works vehicles will have an efficient muffler design in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. The mufflers will be well maintained and regularly tested with the results documented in the maintenance logs.
- Care will be taken by site personnel to ensure materials will not be dropped from a height either onto or from vehicles or from the roof, scaffold or other raised location.
- Radio/music audible in areas external to the building/vehicles will not be permitted on site.

5. PERSONNEL AWARENESS

Guidance:

Ensure that the appropriate authorisations (if any) have been received prior to undertaking work in sensitive areas.

Provide site progress reports to ensure relevant representatives are advised of construction program in advance so that they can be on site during construction if necessary.

Noise and vibration awareness training for all site staff including subcontractors as part of general site induction and toolbox talk activities.

6. AUDIOMETRIC TESTING

Guidance:

Audiometric testing will be conducted by all project employees (and other employees exposed required to work within a prescribed workplace) within 3 months of commencement of employment (pre-employment medical). Additional audiometric tests will be provided not less than every two years for employees working in areas which are deemed prescribed workplaces under the Workers Compensation Act 2023.

A prescribed workplace is:

- For peak noise level, 140 dB(lin); or
- For noise exposure of 90 dB(A) or above over an eight hour period.

Employees working within a prescribed workplace will have a hearing baseline audiometric test not less than every two years.

An audiometric test will be repeated upon an employee reaching 65 years of age or where the worker has been deemed to have exceeded the permitted exposure levels.

7. COMMUNICATION

Guidance:

Any works out of normal construction hours (in accordance with Building Permit issued by local authority) shall require development and submission of a [Noise Management Plan \(Form 966\)](#) to the local authority for approval prior to conducting such works.

The Noise Management Plan – Out of hours, shall be developed by the HSE Department and shall identify:

- dates and times of activities (including completion times);
- location of noise (via map or plan);
- activity or equipment generating noise;
- area of neighbouring premises, public, stakeholders etc. that will be affected by the noise generating activities; and
- Sample Notification Letter;

The notification of works (by letter) shall be sent to the relevant parties by the Project Manager/Contract Administrator at least 48 hours prior to works commencing.

The following calculation is used to identify the notification area when out of hours construction activities are required:

For every 10 meters noise level is reduced by 6dbA based on noise level of 85dbA or more between 0 and 15 meters away from the source.

LINK TO SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [Noise Management Plan \(Form 966\)](#)

REFERENCES

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NOISE MANAGEMENT - SAFETY PRACTICE



- Work Health and Safety Act 2020
- Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022
- Workers Compensation & Injury Management Act 2023
- Code of Practice: Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work

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APPENDIX A – Equipment Noise Levels

Equipment Type	Typical Noise Level (dBA)
Diamond Rock Saw	120
Pile Driver (Impact)	101
Pile Driver (Sonic)	96
Rock Drill	98
Jackhammer	95
Handheld power tool (angle grinder, hammer drill etc.)	94
Lawnmower	91
Paver	89
Scraper	89
Crane (Tower)	88
Crane (Mobile)	83
Jack Hammer	88
Truck	88
Welder	85
Concrete Mixer	85
Dozer	85
Grader	85
Impact Wrench	85
Loader	85
Pneumatic Tool	85
Compactor	82
Concrete Pump	82
Shovel	82
Air Compressor	81
Generator	81
Backhoe	80
Concrete Vibrator	76
Pump	76
Saw	76
Roller	74

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