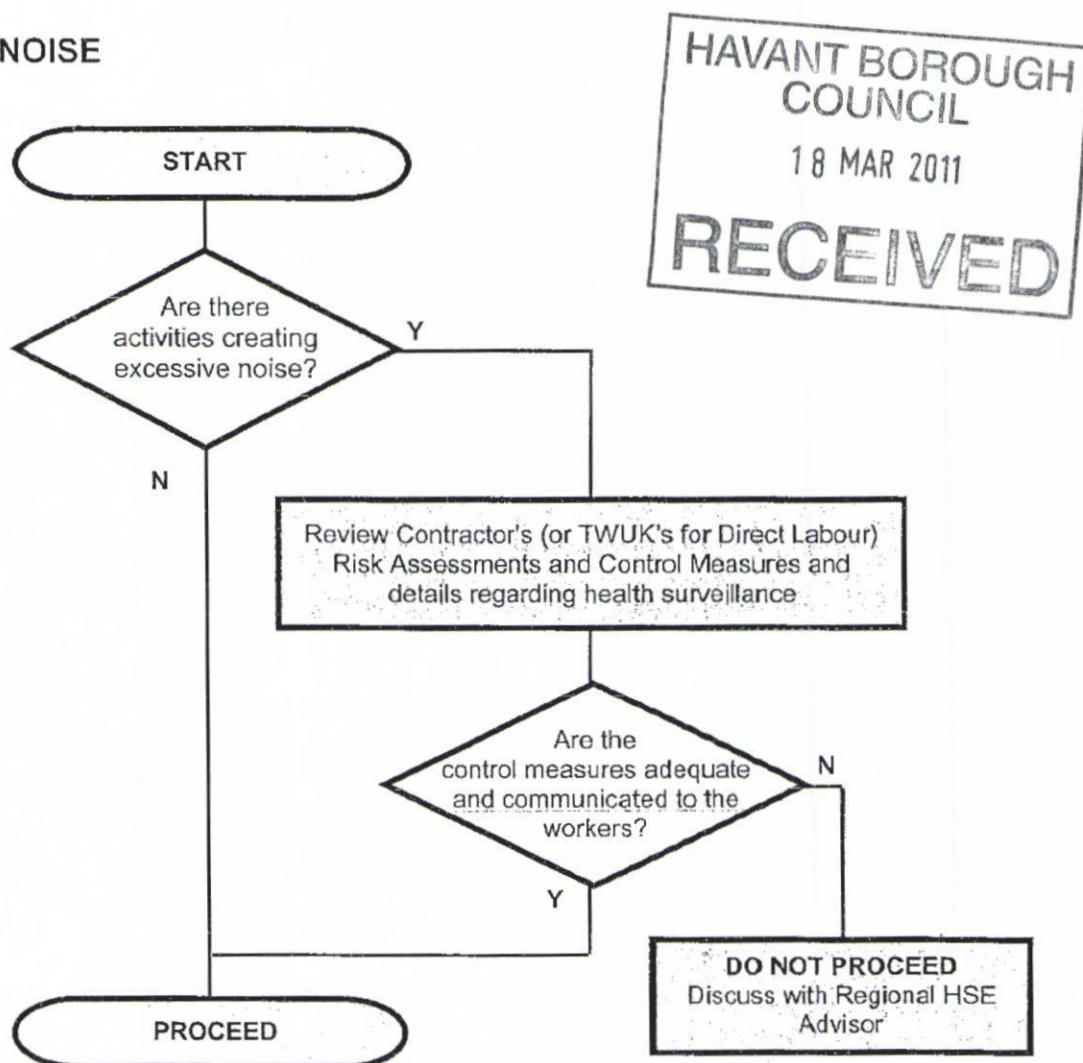


#### 4.14 NOISE



Construction sites can be noisy environments and TWUK aim to eliminate or minimise noise levels wherever possible to ensure we are working responsibly within the community. Your **Site Specific Environmental Action Plan (SSEAP)** (see section 4.21) will detail any associated potential noise issues for your site, particular note will be made if you are working in close proximity to a residential or commercial area. Control measures will also be detailed here to ensure you can manage noise effectively on your site.

#### General areas to be aware include:

- Generators - Consider use of fully canopied and silenced generators; look for generators operating at less than 65 dB(A) at 7 metres. *(dB (A) or Decibels A-scale is the unit of measurement for industrial noise);*
- Use of screening between the source and a receiver of noise. A screen is most effective when placed near to either the source of the noise (e.g. generator / compressor) or the receptor but not halfway between the two;
- Do not leave plant / equipment running overnight (limit to site working hours), this is specifically the case if it can be heard at the site boundary;
- Ensure plant is regularly maintained;
- Always keep doors and hoods of vehicles and machinery closed; and
- Ensure that noisy equipment is not left running when not in use.

Note: Working hours are likely to have been restricted as a planning condition.

#### Noise Control Measures:

- Identify any general controls that can be introduced to reduce the noise to remove the need for operatives having to wear hearing protection.
- Observe if operatives are required to spend time in areas where the noise is at or over the 'lower exposure action value' of 80 dB (A-weighted) and if so, encourage the use of hearing protection. (See Listening Checks below).
- Observe if operatives are required to spend time in areas where the noise is at or over the 'upper exposure action value', of 85 dB (A-weighted) and if so, enforce the use of hearing protection.
- Some equipment like cartridge operated fixing tools create a very short burst of noise above the 'Peak lower exposure action value' of 135 dB (C-weighted) or 'upper exposure action value' of 137 dB (C-weighted) With such equipment enforce the use of hearing protection.

#### LISTENING CHECKS \*

- Are employees exposed to noise which makes it necessary to shout to talk to someone **1 m away**, for more than about **half an hour per day** in total? ***The noise level here is probably 90 dB or more.***
- Are employees exposed to noise which makes it necessary to shout to talk to someone **2 m away**, for more than about **two hours per day** in total? ***The noise level here is probably 85 dB or more.***
- Is conversation at 2 m possible, but **noise is intrusive** - comparable to a busy street, a typical vacuum cleaner or a crowded restaurant - for more than about **six hours per day** in total? ***The noise level here is probably 80 dB or more***

\* extracted from HSE Guidance "Controlling Noise at Work. The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 L108 (Second Edition).

Contractors are responsible for considering the noise levels of equipment they bring on site, providing risk assessments where necessary and managing the control measures. The Site Manager should be notified when high noise levels affect other site personnel so that appropriate measures can be implemented. If you are concerned about the noise being generated by a contractor's equipment, check the control measures in the contractor's risk assessment and enforce them if necessary.

#### Typical Noise Levels in Construction

| Activity                             |                     | Likely Noise Exposure<br>LEP,d |       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
|                                      |                     | Average                        | Range |
| Site Manager (up to 50% day on site) |                     | 80                             |       |
| Asphalt paving                       |                     | 85                             |       |
| Blasting                             |                     | 100+                           |       |
| Bricklayer                           |                     | 83                             | 81-85 |
| Carpenter                            |                     | 92                             | 86-96 |
| Concrete                             | chipping/drilling   | 85+                            |       |
|                                      | floor finishing     | 85                             |       |
|                                      | grinding            | 85+                            |       |
| Concrete worker                      |                     | 89                             |       |
| Crushing                             | mill worker         | 85+                            |       |
| Driver                               | crawler tractor     | 85+                            |       |
|                                      | dumper              | 85+                            |       |
|                                      | excavator           | 85                             |       |
|                                      | grader              | 85+                            |       |
|                                      | loader              | 85                             |       |
|                                      | roller              | 85+                            |       |
|                                      | wheeled loader      | 89                             |       |
|                                      | wheeled tractor     | 85                             |       |
| Engineer                             | supervising pour    | 96                             |       |
|                                      | surveying           | 80                             |       |
| Foreman                              | supervising workers | 80                             |       |
| Formwork setter                      |                     | 92                             | 89-93 |
| Ganger                               | concrete pour       | 93                             | 92-93 |
|                                      | general work        | 94                             |       |
| Guniting                             |                     | 85+                            |       |
| Labourer                             | concrete pour       | 97                             | 95-98 |
|                                      | digging/scabbling   | 100                            |       |
|                                      | general work        | 84                             |       |
|                                      | shovelling hardcore | 94                             |       |
|                                      | shuttering          | 91                             |       |
| M&E installer                        | general             | 89                             | 82-96 |
|                                      | small work          | 84                             | 78-89 |
| Piling operator                      |                     | 85+                            |       |
| Piling worker                        |                     | 100+                           |       |
| Reinforcement                        | building site       | 86                             | 82-89 |
| worker                               | bending yard        | 84                             | 77-87 |
| Sandblasting                         |                     | 85+                            |       |

Further information on Noise can be found in CITB GE 700 Section B10 and further advice can be provided by your Site HSE Advisor.