



Policy:	Noise Policy	Reference:	NSES0053
		Review Date:	05/2023

Purpose.

To ensure awareness of and reduce the affects to employees and others of noise. The organisation will take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that the risk of hearing damage to employees, who work with noisy equipment or in a noisy environment, is reduced to a minimum. The organisation also recognises that noise levels below those which cause hearing damage, in offices for example, can still cause problems such as disturbance, interference with communication and stress, and will take all reasonable steps to reduce noise levels as far as possible. The organisation will also take all reasonable steps to minimise the disturbance caused by noise from the organisation's premises affecting people in the neighbourhood.

Scope.

This policy applies to all employees of SES Engineering (Newark) Ltd.

Definitions.

Noise Is an unwanted sound.

References.

- The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005.
- Management of Health & Safety at Work regulations 1999.
- Health & Safety at work regulations 1974.
- CITB GE700 Construction Site Safety.
- Personal Protective Equipment Policy (Ref: PPESES0056).

Exposure Limits.

Lower Exposure Action Value.

A daily or weekly exposure of 80dB (A-weighted) and
A peak sound pressure of 135 dB (C-weighted)

Upper Exposure Action Value.

A daily or weekly exposure of 85dB (A-weighted) and
A peak sound pressure of 137 dB (C-weighted)

The Exposure Limit Value

A daily or weekly exposure of 87 dB (A-weighted) and
A peak sound pressure of 140 dB (C-weighted)

Estimate of Noise Levels If:

1. A noise is intrusive but normal conversation is possible, the probable noise level is about 80dB.
2. You have to shout to hold a conversation with someone approximately 1 metre away the probable noise level is about 85 dB.
3. You have to shout to hold a conversation with someone approximately 2 metres away the probable noise level is about 90 dB.

A noise risk assessment will be required if the conditions at:

- Point 1 last for more than 6 hours.
- Point 2 last for more than 2 hours.
- Point 3 last for more than 45 minutes.

If the risk assessment shows that there is a risk to the health of employees who are or are likely to be exposed to noise, then those persons will be placed under suitable health surveillance.



Procedure.

A specific noise risk assessment is required for anyone working on a site or in the workshop who is likely to be exposed to noise at or above the lower exposure action value. Managers must ensure that no person working on site or in the workshop are exposed to noise levels at or above the exposure limit value.

SES Engineering (Newark) Ltd will carry out regular noise exposure assessments of noisy:

- Areas.
- Processes.
- Equipment.

These will be used as the basis for formulating action plans for remedial measures when necessary. Assessments will be recorded and updated regularly, particularly when changes in work practice cause changes in noise exposure levels of employees. A noise map of the office and workshop demonstrates exposure levels. ([Ref... noise map doc](#))

Reduction of Noise Exposure Levels.

SES Engineering (Newark) Ltd will, as far as reasonably practicable, take steps to reduce noise exposure levels of employees by means other than the use of PPE. The organisation accepts that the use of ear protectors is a last resort and are committed to continuing to seek and introduce alternative methods for reducing noise exposure levels wherever possible in the future.

Noise levels at or above the lower exposure action value and below the upper exposure action value, hearing protection must be available for everyone that may be exposed to these levels.

All noise levels at or above the upper exposure action value, hearing protection must be worn with no person being exposed to noise levels at or above the exposure limit value of 87 dB 'A' or a peak sound pressure of 140 dB 'C'.

If employees are likely to be exposed to noise levels at or above the upper exposure action value then the exposure must be limited to a lower level as is reasonably practicable by implementing a programme of organisational and technical measures, excluding the provision of hearing protection.

Provision of Ear Plugs and Ear Defenders.

SES Engineering (Newark) Ltd will provide suitable and effective ear protection to employees working in high noise levels, as indicated as necessary by the results of noise exposure assessments. (REF: NAFSES0054) it will also provide for the maintenance and repair or renewal of the PPE and provide training in the selection and fitting of protectors and details of the circumstances in which they should be used.

Hearing Protection Zones.

SES Engineering (Newark) Ltd will designate and mark out hearing protection zones, which may include particular areas, operations, or pieces of equipment. All personnel entering these zones will be required to wear ear protectors.

Use and Maintenance of Noise Control Equipment & Procedures.

The organisation will maintain all equipment and monitor all procedures introduced for the purpose of reducing noise exposure of employees, such as:

- Enclosures.
- Silencers.
- Machine Covers.

All personnel will be required to:

1. Use these procedures and equipment correctly.
2. Promptly report any defects or deficiencies through the appropriate channels.

Provision of Training.

The organisation will provide adequate training to employees as part of its hearing conservation and noise control policy.

All employees who are subject to high levels of noise will be provided with:



- Information, instruction, and training about the harmful effects of noise.
- Information and training on what they must do in order to protect themselves and meet the requirements of the law and of the organisations policy.

Managers and supervisors responsible for formulating and carrying out the organisations noise policy will also be given appropriate training.

Procedures for Dealing with Health and Safety Issues.

Whenever an employee raises a matter related to noise in the workplace as a health and safety issue, the organisation will:

1. Take all necessary steps to investigate the circumstances.
2. Take corrective measures where appropriate.
3. Advise the employee of actions taken.

Where a problem arises because of noise in the workplace, the employee must inform a responsible person immediately.

Audiometric Testing.

Where employees are exposed to risk from high noise levels, companies must adopt a programme of monitoring the hearing of employees subject to high levels of noise to ensure the organisation's noise control policy is effective and that employees' hearing is not being adversely affected. This will involve regular audiometric tests carried out by trained personnel and pre-employment audiometric tests for new employees.