



# Control of Noise at Work

The assessment, documentation and reduction of noise exposure to your employees is important because:

- It may be necessary under The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005
- It may be a requirement of, or benefit to getting company insurance
- It can improve a work environment and employee satisfaction
- It can identify needs for hearing conservation programmes
- It may provide a safeguard against bogus claims against you as an employer

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 places a requirement on an employer to minimise the risk of harmful noise exposure to its employees. While the Health & Safety Executive will be responsible for enforcing these regulations, there is increasing requirement for companies to demonstrate compliance with the Regulations when getting and renewing insurance.

The response of many employers to perceived noise risks is incorrectly to enforce a general use of hearing protection. A noise survey can indicate where alternative measures can make improvements that offer benefits to employees and confirm the adequacy of hearing protection where its use is found necessary.

In instances where employees require personal protection from noise exposure it is important that an employer is aware of its duties under the Regulations. These may extend to the provision of hearing conservation programmes and the identification of those requiring baseline and on-going health surveillance.

The growth of speculative claims of hearing damage can be difficult to defend against without documented records of exposure risks. The knowledge that a company possesses and acts on noise at work risk assessment reports can help to demonstrate a responsible company approach to employee protection and is a deterrent against opportunistic claims.

## What we can provide

We can offer measurement and advice that provides:

- Noise measurement and employee exposure assessment
- Assessment reports identifying situations of risk and defining required actions necessary under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations