

Noise at Work Policy

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This policy sets out the ways in which Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) will comply with its duties and responsibilities as defined in the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005.

2.0 AIMS OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 The aim of this policy is to ensure employee's safety by minimizing exposure to noise as far as is reasonably practicable and to comply with legislative requirements.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 The noise at work regulations defined three "action levels of daily personal exposure to noise"
- "*Lower exposure action value*" means the lower of the two levels of daily or weekly personal noise exposure or of peak sound pressure, if reached or exceeded, require specific action to be taken to reduce risk.
 - "*Upper exposure noise value*" means the higher of the two levels of daily or weekly personal noise exposure or of peak sound pressure, if reached or exceeded require specific action to be taken to reduce risk
 - "*Exposure limit value*" means the level of daily or weekly personal noise exposure or of peak sound pressure which must not be exceeded.
 - $L_{EP,d}$ is the unit measurement of the total exposure to noise averaged over an eight hour working day
 - $L_{EP,w}$ is the unit measurement of the total exposure to noise averaged over a typical working week

- *Pascals* is the measurement of the pressure of noise, e.g. vibration
- “*Peak sound pressure*” means the maximum sound pressure to which an employee is exposed.

4.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 Chief Executive /Corporate Directors.

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy rests with the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors.

4.2 Heads of Service

Heads of Service will be responsible for ensuring that the health and safety arrangements are developed and implemented to satisfy the requirements of this policy.

4.3 Governing Bodies of Schools Maintained by Education Authority

There is a shared responsibility for health, safety and welfare between the LEA, governing body and Headteacher.

4.4 Managers/ Team Leaders/ Headteachers

Each Manager/ Team Leader/ Headteacher will ensure that departmental instructions are implemented within their section.

4.5 Occupational Health Unit

The Occupational Health Unit (OHU) will conduct appropriate audiometric testing for at risk groups. Audiometric testing will be carried out at regular intervals following an initial baseline reading on recruitment or commencement of duties in roles where they may be exposed to significant noise levels

4.6 Corporate Health & Safety Section

The Corporate Health & Safety Section will provide advice and guidance in order to ensure compliance with legislation and associated guidance. In conjunction with Managers/ Team Leaders/ Headteachers arrange for noise assessments to be conducted where necessary and on completion advise on appropriate controls.

4.7 Employees

Employees have the duty to:

- wear all hearing protection when required to do so
- report all faults in hearing protection provided
- participate in audiometric testing when required to do so
- report any deterioration in hearing that may be linked to noise at work.

5.0 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The key pieces of legislation that need to be considered as regards to this policy are:

- Noise at Work Regulations 2005
- Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA)
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations (revised 1999) (MHSWR)
- Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992

6.0 REVIEW

The operation of the policy will be the subject of periodic review.

7.0 CORPORATE PROCEDURE

NPTCBC shall implement this policy through the guidance outlined in the Corporate Procedure [CP/06/01](#).