

## Environmental Health – Construction Noise Guide

Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997

### Regulation 13 - How the regulation works

#### Under the special case regulation dealing with construction sites -

- A **"construction site"** is defined as a premises or public place on which the sole or principal activity is the carrying out of construction work
- **"Construction work"** is clearly defined in that the Occupational Safety and Health Act
- The assigned noise levels set in regulations 7 & 8 do not apply to noise emitted from construction site as a result of construction work on Mondays to Saturdays, under certain conditions and;
- Work may be done **between 7 pm and 7 am and on Sundays and Public Holidays**, under a stricter set of conditions.

#### DAYTIME CONSTRUCTION

#### For construction work carried out between 7.00am and 7.00pm on any day which is not a Sunday or public holiday -

- The construction work must be carried out in accordance with control of noise practices set out in section six of Australian Standard 2436-1981 "Guide to Noise Control on Construction, Maintenance and Demolition Sites"
- The equipment used for the construction work must be the quietest reasonably available
- The chief executive officer (CEO) of the local council or the Department of Environmental Protection may request that a noise management plan be submitted for the construction work at any time

#### CONSTRUCTION OUT OF HOURS

#### For construction work carried out outside the hours 7.00am and 7.00pm on any day -

- The work must be carried out in accordance with section six of AS 2436-1981
- The equipment used must be the quietest reasonably available
- The builder must advise all nearby occupants of the work at least 24 hours before it commences
- The builder must show that it was reasonably necessary for the work to be done out of hours
- The builder must submit to the CEO (town clerk) a noise management plan at least seven days before the work starts and the plan must be approved by the CEO

The noise management plan must include details of -

- \* **need for the work** to be done out of hours
- \* **Types of activity** which could be noisy
- \* **Predictions of noise levels**
- \* **control measures for noise and vibration**
- \* **monitoring of noise and vibration**
- \* **Complaint response**

If a builder failed to comply with these conditions, or with the approved noise management plan, the noise from the construction site would be treated the same as noise from any other premises and would need to meet the assigned levels.

#### AS 2436-1981

Section six of this standard gives practical guidance on noise control measures for construction sites, including the selection and siting of equipment, use of noise barriers and so on. AS 2436-1981 also gives typical noise levels for construction plant, where an unduly noisy item caused a problem, the Council could direct that it be repaired or replaced by a quieter item.