
Policy Statement
The University of Dundee recognises that working in a noisy environment may lead to temporary or permanent hearing loss and tinnitus, as well as difficulties in hearing instructions and safety warnings. Therefore, it is committed to reducing exposure to noise in the workplace to as low a level as is reasonably practicable for its staff, students, contractors and visitors.

Arrangements
Deans/Directors are responsible for identifying workplaces where normal conversation is difficult or loud noises are generated. For these workplaces they should ensure a risk assessment is carried by a competent member of staff. This assessment should include:

- level of noise either from information provided by equipment/machinery suppliers, industry standards or direct measurement
- duration of exposure based upon observation of work practices and procedures over a typical working day and week
- whether anyone has a health or other condition that increases their risk
- any detrimental health effects arising from the interaction between noise and other agents e.g. vibration or ototoxic chemicals
- any detrimental effects from difficulties in communication, or hearing safety alerts/warnings
- whether an exposure action value or limit value is likely to be exceeded
- eliminating exposure to noise, or if this is not reasonably practicable reducing exposure to as low a level as is reasonably practicable by a formal programme of measures including engineering means and management controls
- provision of hearing protection when daily or weekly personal noise exposure is above 80dB(A), together with information, instruction and training in its use and monitoring of its use
- establishing hearing protection zones when daily or weekly personal noise exposure is above 85dB(A)
- maintaining and checking that noise control equipment is in good condition and monitoring that it is being properly used
• providing information, instruction and training to staff and students so they understand the risks to their health, how to use the control measures correctly, and the importance of using them.

Risk assessments should be recorded and reviewed annually to ensure the findings remain valid or when changes are introduced e.g. new machine, altered working hours.

Safety Services can provide advice on risk assessments.

OH service will include surveillance for hearing loss or damage as part of their health surveillance programme.

Further information about Noise at Work including Lower and Upper Exposure Action Values and Exposure Limit Values and advice on risk assessments can be found at http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise