



FACTSHEET 5.1 – Hazardous Work – Noise and Hazardous Manual Tasks

Noise	WHS Regulations Part 4.1
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Exposure standard for noise, in relation to a person, means:

- (a) the LAeq,8h of 85 dB(A); or
- (b) the LC peak of 140 dB(C).

LAeq,8h means the **eight-hour equivalent** continuous A-weighted sound pressure level in decibels (dB(A)) referenced to 20 micropascals, determined in accordance with AS/NZS 1269.1.

LC,peak means the C-weighted **peak** sound pressure level in decibels (dB(C)) referenced to 20 micropascals, determined in accordance with AS/NZS 1269.1.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES AND THEIR NOISE LEVELS

Activity	Noise Level	Maximum time of exposure
Normal conversation	60 decibels	More than a day
Driving a car	70 decibels	More than a day
Standing on a busy road	80 decibels	24 hours
Operating a power tool	94 decibels	1 hour
At a rock concert	100 decibels	15 minutes
Near a crane	102 decibels	10 minutes
Using a nail gun	120 decibels	10 seconds

Hazardous Manual Tasks	WHS Regulations Part 4.2
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In determining control measures for hazardous manual tasks, the PCBU is required to consider:

- The postures, movements, forces and vibration relating to the hazardous manual task;
- The duration and frequency of the hazardous manual task; and
- The workplace environmental conditions that may affect the hazardous manual task or the worker doing it e.g. weather, surfaces to be crossed, lighting, obstructions in the pathway;
- Design or layout of the work areas e.g. workstation design, space, working heights, working position;
- Systems of work e.g. workload and pace, rest breaks, resources and support;
- Nature, size, weight or number of things involved in the task e.g. loads, people or animals being handled, tools and equipment used;
- Pre-purchase of equipment e.g. suitable for task, handling, delivery and storage requirements;
- The work environment e.g. vibration, temperature and humidity, lighting and floors and surfaces;
- Use of mechanical aids e.g. use of conveyors, hoists, turntables, pumps or forklifts; and
- Administrative controls e.g. job rotation; team handling; and training and supervision required.