

APPENDIX 2

GUIDANCE MATERIAL FOR MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS AND SUPPLIERS ON THE PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT NOISE LEVELS GENERATED BY PLANT

INTRODUCTION

A2.1 The purposes of this guidance material are:

- (a) to assist manufacturers, importers and suppliers in providing ‘appropriate and adequate’ information on noise levels generated by plant (see under the heading ‘Appropriate and Adequate’ Information on Noise elsewhere in this Appendix).
- (b) to assist purchasers to make an informed choice when purchasing plant, by being able to assess and, where possible, compare suppliers’ noise level information. This information will usually be obtained from tests under standardised conditions. The plant may, however, generate different noise levels in the workplace and it is the responsibility of the employer purchasing the plant to assess noise levels in the workplace. The purchase of plant should occur through the consultative mechanisms in the workplace, as part of a strategy to reduce noise levels in the workplace.

A2.2 The reasons for providing information on noise levels prior to purchase are:

- (a) noise levels are a significant factor in making decisions on the purchase and hire of plant, since ‘buying quiet’ is a highly cost effective way to control workplace noise;
- (b) providing the information ‘up-front’ encourages manufacturers to produce quieter products; and
- (c) comparing noise levels will encourage local manufacturers and suppliers to move towards compatibility with information obtained/required overseas and in other parts of Australia.

‘APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE’ INFORMATION ON NOISE

A2.3 For information on noise levels to be considered ‘appropriate’ and ‘adequate’, it should be:

- (a) collected by a competent person (See Appendix 1) according to good measurement practice as defined in relevant general international standards, or Australian Standards such as AS 2659¹⁰. This ensures a reasonable standard of accuracy;
- (b) presented in a clear, understandable format;
- (c) technically complete and unambiguous; and
- (d) representative of noise likely to be emitted by plant under typical conditions of usage.

A2.4 The minimum testing information that should be supplied to the purchaser is listed in the table below. Where relevant information on test procedures is contained in a test standard or a test report, reference to the standard or the report should be included. Information should be provided on peak noise levels, where relevant, as well as on continuous noise levels. The manufacturer/supplier should be able to provide a full test report when requested.

A2.5 Where there is a selection of noise measurement results available, the preferred measurement, for the purpose of this code of practice, is the sound pressure level at the operator's ear position.

TABLE: MINIMUM NOISE TESTING INFORMATION TO BE SPECIFIED BY THE MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Supplier's details (for example, name, local address, telephone and/or facsimile number, e-mail).

Manufacturer's details (for example, name, address, telephone and/or facsimile number, e-mail).

Details of the plant tested (including any noise controls, for example, make, model, serial number, relevant capacity/rating).

Title or number of specific test standard or code followed (if any) and details of any departures from the standard. For example, if a machine needed to be mounted differently to the method given in the standard, the alternative mounting should be described.

Details of operating conditions if not specified in the standard, or if no specific test standard is available for the type of plant being tested. For example, test machine load, speed, type of material processed, details of installation and mounting of test machine, details of test environment, description of measurement instrumentation and procedure. Reference to a test report containing this information will suffice.

Measurement position(s) (for example, operator's ear position or 1 metre from machines).

Sound pressure level or sound power level.

Frequency weighting (for example, A, C or linear).

Time weighting (for example, slow, fast or peak) or L_{eq} .

Sound level or levels determined in testing.

Units of measurement (for example, dB re: 20 micropascals).

Date issued.

SUGGESTED PROFORMA FOR PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ON NOISE LEVELS GENERATED BY PLANT

A2.6 A suggested proforma for the presentation of information on noise levels generated by plant is shown below. However, the information may be presented in any convenient way that will bring it to the purchaser's attention. For example, a catalogue or operating instructions would be suitable, provided the information is complete.

SUPPLIER/MANUFACTURER

Supplier:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Facsimile: _____

E-mail: _____

Manufacturer:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Facsimile: _____

E-mail: _____

DETAILS OF PLANT TESTED

Description of item _____

Make: _____

Model: _____ Serial No. _____

Noise reducing attachments fitted: _____

TEST PROCEDURES

Operating conditions _____

Test environment _____

Test standard followed: _____ Number _____

Title _____

Clauses _____

Departures from Standard _____

Measurement method if no standard followed _____

RESULTS

Measurement position _____

Time weighting (fast, slow, or peak) or L_{eq} _____

	Range	Mean	
A-weighted	_____ To _____	_____	dB(A)
C-weighted	_____ To _____	_____	dB(C)
C-weighted, peak	_____ To _____	_____	dB(C) Peak
Sound power level	_____ dB(A)		
Date issued	_____		