

# Construction Noise Guidelines

This guideline provides information about the control of noise at construction sites. Subject to compliance with a number of specific conditions, noise generated by construction activities does not have to comply with the assigned noise levels.

## Daytime Construction

- (1) Noisy construction work activities must be carried out between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Saturday (excluding public holidays).
- (2) Construction work must be carried out in accordance with the Control of Noise Practices set out in section 6 of the Australian Standard 2436-2010 "Guide to Noise Control on Construction, Maintenance and Demolition Sites";
- (3) Equipment used for construction work must be the quietest reasonably available; and
- (4) The Chief Executive Officer of the local government may request that a noise management plan be submitted for construction work at any time.

## Definitions

For the purpose of these guidelines, please note the following definitions:

A "**Construction site**" is a premises or public place on which the sole or principal activity is the carrying out of construction work;

"**Construction Work**" refers to:

- the construction, erection, installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, cleaning, painting, renewal, removal, excavation, dismantling or demolition of, or addition to, any building or structure, or any work in connection with any of these things;
- work on which a hoisting appliance or any scaffold or shoring is used;
- work in driving or extracting piles, sheet piles or trench sheet;
- work in laying any pipe or work in lining pipe that is done at or adjacent to the place where the pipe is laid or to be laid;
- work in sinking or lining or altering, repairing, maintaining, renewing, removing, or dismantling a well or borehole; or
- road works, earth works or other similar site works or reclamation.

## Construction Noise "Out Of Hours"

"Out of Hours" construction work is considered to be prior to 7am or after 7pm Monday to Saturday, or on Sundays and public holidays. For construction work outside of these hours:

- (1) The builder must show that it was reasonably necessary for the construction work to be done out of hours. Consideration will be given to the following circumstances:
  - i) Where there is a possibility that the community may be negatively impacted upon by the noise the application is based on, for example, the delivery of an oversized plant or structure,

- emergency works, maintenance, repair or works of public infrastructure, or public infrastructure works; or
- ii) Where the applicant can demonstrate that no one within the community will be adversely impacted by the construction work
- (2) The builder must submit to the City of Kwinana Environment and Health Services, an application with associated fees and a Noise Management Plan, at least ten days before the construction work commences and the plan must be approved by the City. The Noise Management Plan must include a “to scale” site plan and details of:
- i) the need for the construction work to be done out of hours;
  - ii) the types of activity that may be noisy;
  - iii) noise level predictions;
  - iv) proposed noise and vibration control measures;
  - v) proposed methods of noise and vibration monitoring; and
  - vi) complaint response procedures;
- (3) The work must be carried out in accordance with section 6 of Australian Standard 2436-2010;
- (4) The equipment must be the quietest reasonably available; and
- (5) According to the legislation, the builder must advise all nearby occupants of the work to be done at least 24 hours before it commences but it would be more appropriate to give at least three days advance notice.

When construction work is carried out during ‘out of hours’ without an approved noise management plan or other noise are being emitted at the construction site, the City will assess if the noise being emitted from the construction site is considered to be unreasonable under Section 79 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Penalties may apply if noise is found to be unreasonable. It should be noted that work which does not create unreasonable noise is permitted outside these times as are other activities such as workers arriving at site and unloading material or tools provided they are not creating excessive noise.

### **Australian Standard 2436-2010**

Section 6 of Australian Standard 2436-2010 gives practical guidance on noise control measures for construction sites, including the selection and siting of equipment, use of noise barriers and so on. It also gives typical noise levels for a construction plant. Where an unduly noisy piece of equipment causes a problem, the assessing officer could direct that it be repaired or replaced by a quieter item.

Copies of this standard can be purchased from Standards Australia. Website: <https://store.standards.org.au/>

For further information contact:

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*Disclaimer: This document is a guide only. For full details refer to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.*