

Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and  
Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP)  
The Haymarket SSDA2  
Noise and Vibration Assessment (Addendum)

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REVISION 3



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## CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	EPA	4
1.2	Transport for NSW	5
1.3	City of Sydney	6
2	RESPONSE TO EPA COMMENTS	7
3	RESPONSE TO CITY OF SYDNEY	9
3.1	Current Noise Policy Overview	9
3.1.1	Noise Criteria for Commercial Premises (Retail Type Premises)	9
3.1.2	Noise Criteria for Residential Premises	9
3.1.2.1	Comparative to Background and Fixed Noise Level Criteria	10
3.1.2.2	City of Sydney DCP	10
3.1.2.3	AS2107:2000	11
3.1.2.4	AAAC Star Ratings	11
3.1.2.5	WHO Guidelines	12
3.1.3	Noise Criteria Summary	12
3.2	Noise Assessment	12
3.2.1	Overview	12
3.2.2	Future External Noise Levels	13
3.3	In-Principle Design Recommendations	13
3.4	Consideration of Other Existing Operations	14
4	CONCLUSION	15
	APPENDIX A - GLOSSARY OF ACOUSTIC TERMS	16

## List of Tables

Table 1 – Existing Industrial Noise Level for Amenity Criteria, dB(A)	7
Table 2 – AAAC Star Ratings for Residential Internal Noise Levels	12
Table 3 – Measured Noise Levels of Comparable Acoustic Environments	13
Table 4 – Indicative Acoustic Treatment Options, External People Noise Level $L_{eq}$ 65 to 70dB(A)	13

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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The purpose of this document is to provide an addendum to the Noise and Vibration Assessment prepared for the Stage 1 Development Application (referred to as the SSDA 2 Report). It responds to submissions received from the EPA, Transport for NSW and City of Sydney Council in regard to the Stage 1 DA for the SICEEP Haymarket concept proposal currently before the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

## 1.1 EPA

The following comments were provided by the EPA.

### *Noise and Vibration*

#### *Construction Noise and Vibration*

*The EPA has reviewed the Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) contained within Appendix S of the EIS with respect to construction and operational noise and vibration, and makes the following comments and recommendations:*

- The NVIA does not appear to have made any predictions of noise from the proposed construction activities. In this respect it has not satisfied the project Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) and it is not adequate.*
- The NVIA states that vibration during construction is not expected to cause adverse human impacts and therefore no further assessment or consideration of mitigation measures would be undertaken in the NVIA Prediction of vibration impacts associated with construction of the proposal also lack detail as they do not consider project-specific construction methods and vibration sources. Vibration impacts therefore need to be assessed on a site-by-site basis for each Stage 2 application.*
- The NVIA proposes construction hours that are not consistent with the standard construction hours contained within the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC 2009).*
- The NVIA provides project specific operational noise criteria based on the intrusiveness and amenity criteria in the Industrial Noise Policy (EPA 2000). The amenity criteria provided in Table 5 of the NVIA have been calculated from the Industrial Noise Policy, however the noise levels used to calculate the criteria have not been provided. It is therefore not possible to assess whether these criteria have been calculated correctly.*
- The NVIA states that the scope of the Assessment is to provide noise criteria and objectives for the concept plan only, as details regarding the development are not currently sufficient to allow a quantitative assessment. The EPA therefore recommends that a detailed NVIA incorporating operational noise and vibration be prepared for each subsequent Stage 2 application.*

*The EPA therefore recommends that:*

- *Project-specific noise and vibration impact assessments addressing noise impacts during construction and operation of the developments must be prepared for each Stage 2 application.*
- *These assessments must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines referenced in the project DGRs, and also include:*
  - *Assessment of the noise impacts associated with construction on other components of the SICEEP project that may be completed and occupied whilst construction works are undertaken.*
  - *Include assessment of cumulative impacts of construction of different elements of the SICEEP project concurrently on external and internal sensitive receivers.*

*This could be achieved through an appropriate condition of approval (CoA).*

- *The EPA recommends a CoA requiring that construction works only occur within the standard construction hours of:*
  - *Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm*
  - *Saturday 8am to 1 pm*
  - *No work on Sundays or public holidays*
- *The EPA recommends that the proponent should provide information regarding the LAeq contribution from industrial sources used to calculate the amenity criteria prior to approval. This will enable the EPA to assess the method used to calculate the amenity criteria for the operational stage of the development and therefore whether the criteria used in the NVIA are correct.*

A detailed response is presented in Section 2.

## **1.2 Transport for NSW**

In addition to the above, the following comment was provided by Transport for NSW:

*Due to the proximity of the proposed development to the Light Rail corridor, further detailed assessment is required in relation to the following:*

### *Noise and Vibration*

*A detailed noise and vibration assessment should be undertaken to quantify the likely impacts from current and future light rail operations upon future sensitive receivers which will be part of the Haymarket development. This assessment should be prepared in accordance with the DP&I guideline 'Development near rail corridors and busy roads, 2008'.*

In response to these comments we confirm that the detailed assessment for the Stage 2 DAs for each Plot will include assessment of light rail in accordance with SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 and the supporting *Development near busy roads and rail corridors*.

### **1.3 City of Sydney**

Comments from the City of Sydney have requested that:

*"The Stage 1 DA should be accompanied by acoustic modelling which discusses the probable design and management techniques which would be necessary for the interface between active ground floor uses and residential uses above."*

As outlined in the SSDA2 report, the amenity of residential premises is proposed to be addressed through a combination of physical design measures at the residential building as well as design and management measures for the retail type uses. Noise control measures at the residential building are expected in order to address general noise from use of the public realm and from areas of retail type uses such as outdoor dining, which cannot reasonably be controlled by other means. Control of mechanical services equipment and music noise is expected to be controlled at the source.

Whilst it is understood that The Haymarket Square may be used for special activities, details of such activities are not known at this stage however Lend Lease has advised that the activities could include:

- Passive recreation;
- Seasonal events such as markets, fairs and an open air cinema; and
- Community and civic events such as Chinese New Year Parades and Xmas carols. .

The SSDA2 Report discusses not only a design and management response but also the criteria and assessment framework for the approach. It is noted that current noise policy does not specifically address the balance between commercial (retail) operations and residential acoustic amenity in mixed use areas.

This is discussed in further detail in the following sections.

## 2 RESPONSE TO EPA COMMENTS

In line with the recommendations made by the EPA, and consistent with the statements made within the SSDA 2 Report, we confirm that more detailed assessment of construction and operational noise have been carried out and will be presented in the Stage 2 DA reports for the individual sites.

In regard to the establishment of the amenity noise criteria, the notes of Table 5 (p.17 of the SSDA 2 Report) outline the process used to modify the amenity noise criteria in accordance with the Industrial Noise Policy. As stated, the amenity criteria have been modified in accordance with Table 2.2 of the Industrial Noise Policy assuming the existing industrial noise contribution equals the measured background level. It is considered that the existing noise level is unlikely to decrease in the future. The high traffic noise environmental criteria has not been applied in the criteria as the majority of noise level measurements were carried out at street level and therefore lower traffic noise levels are expected at upper levels of development. The traffic noise correction could however reasonably be applied at lower levels of the development. No correction to the commercial premise criteria were determined to be required based on the measurement data. Notwithstanding the discussion, Table 1 presents the noise levels used to establish the amenity noise criteria. This will also be included in each of the Stage 2 SSDA reports, inclusive of in-principle allowable noise contributions for each Plot within the Haymarket, in line with the cumulative assessment requirements of the amenity criteria.

**Table 1 – Existing Industrial Noise Level for Amenity Criteria, dB(A)**

Location	Time Period	Existing Industrial Noise	INP Base Amenity Criteria	Modified Criteria
R1 – Peak Apartments	Day	55	60	58
	Evening	53	50	43
	Night	51	45	41
R2 – Holiday Inn	Day	57	60	57
	Evening	57	50	47
	Night	51	45	41
R3 - Southern Cross on Harbour	Day	60(57)*	60	57
	Evening	58(57)*	50	47
	Night	51	45	41
R4 – Novotel	Day	58	60	56
	Evening	56	50	46
	Night	51	45	41

*Notes: Day is defined as 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Saturday and 8:00am to 6:00pm Sundays & Public Holidays.*

*Evening is defined as 6:00pm to 10:00pm, Monday to Sunday & Public Holidays.*

*Night is defined as 10:00pm to 7:00am, Monday to Saturday and 10:00pm to 8:00am Sundays & Public Holidays.*

*\* Affected by higher traffic exposure, therefore criteria established based on Location R2.*

In regard to the construction hours the EPA recommended that the proposed hours be reduced in line with their *Interim Construction Noise Guideline*. However, as outlined in the SSDA2 Report the proposed hours of 7am – 7pm Monday to Friday and 8am – 5pm Saturdays are consistent with the construction hours approved by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on projects such as Barangaroo, and consistent with the City of Sydney Council construction work hours. The proposed hours are also consistent with those being nominated for the PPP Core Facilities SSDA 1.



### 3 RESPONSE TO CITY OF SYDNEY

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#### 3.1 Current Noise Policy Overview

##### 3.1.1 Noise Criteria for Commercial Premises (Retail Type Premises)

Standard noise policy and criteria applicable to retail type development places the onus of noise control and management upon the operator (noise emitter). With respect to the Haymarket, it is expected that standard City of Sydney conditions of consent will be utilised to mitigate noise impacts. In addition, where premises are licensed, the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing (OLGR) has standard noise criteria that is similar to planning conditions of consent relevant to noise mitigation.

The standard noise criteria vary at different times of the day, but are all relative to the existing background noise level at the sensitive receptor location. This is in contrast to road traffic and light rail noise intrusion, which is assessed against a fixed  $L_{Aeq}$  noise level criterion.

The typical criteria that apply are as follows:

- Between **7am – 12midnight**, at the boundary of the nearest affected residential boundaries/balconies, with an allowance of **background noise + 5dB<sup>1</sup>**;
- Between **12midnight – 7am**, at the boundary of the nearest affected residential boundaries/balconies, with an allowance of **background noise + 0dB<sup>2</sup>**;
- Between **12midnight – 7am**, noise is also required to be **inaudible** inside habitable rooms of the residential premises and applies with the windows of the residential premise open or closed.

The result of these standard criteria is that the imposition of noise control is placed firmly on the retail use.

Further to the above, the control of noise at the commercial premises does not address noise from the public realm. However the criteria do protect both the internal and external amenity of residential premises without the need for any specific acoustic treatment to the residential building.

On the basis of the current concept plan for retail and public realm, noise generating developments such as cafes, restaurants and bars are unlikely to comply with the standard noise conditions given the proximity of the residential apartments.

##### 3.1.2 Noise Criteria for Residential Premises

As outlined above, the standard criteria for retail type noise emission, including patrons and music noise, is applied upon the noise emitter. However the alternative to applying controls at the source of noise is to apply the mitigation measures at the receptor location. In this case,

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<sup>1</sup> Applies in octave band centre frequencies from 31.5Hz to 8kHz.

<sup>2</sup> Applies in octave band centre frequencies from 31.5Hz to 8kHz.

the typical design response would be to design the residential building envelope to control noise intrusion. Design responses could typically include:

- Windows and doors to residential apartments need to remain closed in order for the acceptable level of amenity to be achieved;
- Residents may need to be advised of noise – expectations managed;
- An acceptable internal noise level needs to be determined – the extent to which noise may still be audible is dependent upon what controls the background noise level inside the apartment (discussed further below);
- A design criterion for the façade system needs to be established.

#### 3.1.2.1 Comparative to Background and Fixed Noise Level Criteria

An important aspect of this issue is the difference in noise criteria applicable to retail type operations, when compared with other sources such as road traffic, light rail and aircraft. As outlined above, the criteria for assessing noise from retail type development at residential receptors is compared against the prevailing background noise level. It is the emergence of noise above the background noise level that both determines how audible the noise may be.

By comparison, the noise criteria for road traffic, trains or aircraft are fixed noise levels relevant to the type of receptor location and are therefore independent of the prevailing background noise level inside the residential premises. These criteria do not necessarily address the audibility of noise, but rather set a fixed noise level at which the particular noise source is considered acceptable. In these cases the control of noise can be readily addressed by the building envelope, as the outside noise can be reduced down to the prescribed level.

However when the background noise level is relevant to the assessment, the blocking out of external noise by the building envelope can also reduce the internal background noise level within an apartment. As a result, the more the external noise is reduced, so too is the background noise level.

Given this complexity, the use of a criteria related to the background noise levels, particularly in octave bands is not readily adopted for developing sites such as the Haymarket.

#### 3.1.2.2 City of Sydney DCP

Section 4.2.3.11 'Acoustic privacy' of the City of Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 sets out the following relevant guidelines, inclusive of fixed noise level criteria:

*"(2) Where necessary, a residential development is to include acoustic measures to reduce the impact of noise from external sources.*

*(3) Development is to incorporate measures that reduce the entry of noise from external sources into dwellings.*

*(4) Where possible, the attenuation of noise at its source is preferred. Where this option is adopted, the applicant will need to demonstrate that the measures to be undertaken:*

- (a) have the consent of relevant parties associated with that noise source; and*
- (b) last for the life of the development proposal.*

*(7) The repeatable maximum  $L_{Aeq (1 \text{ hour})}$  for residential buildings and serviced apartments must not exceed the following levels:*

*(a) for closed windows and doors:*

- (i) 35dB for bedrooms (10pm-7am); and*
- (ii) 45dB for main living areas (24 hours).*

*(b) for open windows and doors:*

- (i) 45dB for bedrooms (10pm-7am); and*
- (ii) 55dB for main living areas (24 hours).*

*(8) Where natural ventilation of a room cannot be achieved, the repeatable maximum  $L_{Aeq (1 \text{ hour})}$  level in a dwelling when doors and windows are shut and air conditioning is operating must not exceed:*

- (a) 38dB for bedrooms (10pm-7am); and*
- (b) 48dB for main living areas (24 hours).*

*(9) These levels are to include the combined measured level of noise from both external sources and the ventilation system operating normally.*

As the criteria does not stipulate the type of noise source that the criteria is applicable to, it is assumed to be applicable to all sources of noise typical of the city environment, which would include patron and pedestrian noise.

#### 3.1.2.3 AS2107:2000

Australian Standard 2107:2000 sets recommended internal noise levels for steady/quasi-steady state sounds such as road traffic noise. Noise from patrons and the public is not necessarily steady/quasi-steady state and therefore have not been relied upon.

#### 3.1.2.4 AAAC Star Ratings

The Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC) also provides guidance on internal noise levels within residential premises<sup>3</sup>. The AAAC guideline and star rating system adopts an  $L_{Aeq}$  criteria for continuous noise sources, similar to the City of Sydney Policy, but also includes an average  $L_{Amax}$  criteria for intermittent noises. Table 2 presents the external noise intrusion criteria from the rating system.

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<sup>3</sup> Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC), Nov 2009, Acoustical Star Ratings For Apartments and Townhouses

**Table 2 – AAAC Star Ratings for Residential Internal Noise Levels**

Descriptor	AAAC Star Rating and Internal Noise Level				
	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	6 Star
<b>Bedrooms</b>					
Continuous noises $L_{Aeq} \leq$	36dB(A)	35dB(A)	32dB(A)	30dB(A)	27dB(A)
Intermittent noises ave $L_{Amax} \leq$	50dB(A)	50dB(A)	45dB(A)	40dB(A)	35dB(A)
<b>Other habitable rooms including open kitchens</b>					
Continuous noises $L_{Aeq} \leq$	41dB(A)	40 dB(A)	37 dB(A)	35 dB(A)	32dB(A)
Intermittent noises ave $L_{Amax} \leq$	55dB(A)	55 dB(A)	50 dB(A)	45 dB(A)	40dB(A)

*Notes: Measurements are made in bedrooms and any nominated habitable rooms. Bedrooms are measured over a period between 2200hrs and 0700hrs. Noise measurements in other habitable rooms are undertaken between 0600 to 2400hrs. In any event the measurement period must be representative of the noise being measured. Measurements must include  $L_{Aeq}$  and  $L_{Amax}$ .*

### 3.1.2.5 WHO Guidelines

The *Guidelines for Community Noise* developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) seek to provide guidance to environmental health authorities and professionals trying to protect people from the harmful effects of noise in non-industrial environments. The WHO guidelines suggest that to avoid sleep disturbance, indoor guideline values for bedrooms are  $L_{Aeq}$  30 dB(A) for continuous noise and single noise events should not exceed more than  $L_{Amax}$  45 dB(A) approximately ten times per night.

### 3.1.3 Noise Criteria Summary

Preliminary assessment has been based upon the current City of Sydney DCP. Further consideration may need to be given to the expected standard of residential occupancy and it would be beneficial to measure and reference other deemed satisfactory developments.

## 3.2 Noise Assessment

### 3.2.1 Overview

Whilst it is expected that this matter will require further detailed design and consideration, the following presents a conceptual design solution for The Haymarket, a master planned, mixed use precinct situated at Darling Harbour in the middle of the CBD:

- Residential premises exposed to high external noise levels as a result of retail type and public realm activities will need to close windows in order to meet acceptable acoustic amenity objectives within dwellings. Alternative solutions for ventilation will be provided where windows and doors are required to be closed;
- The building envelope (primarily glazing system and floor/ceiling of first floor apartments above retail) will be designed to mitigate the intrusion of noise from external sources;
- Retail type premises will be designed such that they minimise noise transfer via the floor/ceiling to first floor apartments where they are located below a residential apartment; and

- Retail operations, particular use of outdoor areas is likely to be restricted to between 7am and 12 midnight only.

### 3.2.2 Future External Noise Levels

The noise assessment for this concept proposal has focussed on the first floor residential premises which will be most exposed to noise from The Haymarket ground floor uses and activities. As the specific uses of retail type tenancies and use of the Haymarket Square are not defined, measurement results of areas considered to be similar to the future Haymarket site have been used for reference. We note that preliminary noise modelling of external areas associated with the retail type component also indicated noise levels in the order of  $L_{Aeq}$  65-70dB(A) at the façade of first floor residential apartments. By reference to the  $L_{A1}$  noise levels, the maximum noise levels are generally within 10dB(A) of the  $L_{Aeq}$  and therefore satisfying the City of Sydney  $L_{Aeq}$  noise goals in bedrooms would also satisfy the WHO maximum noise level criteria of 45dB(A). It is recommended that further supporting measurements and/or modelling be carried out during the design development process.

**Table 3 – Measured Noise Levels of Comparable Acoustic Environments**

Location	$L_{Aeq}$ Period			$L_{A1}$ period		
	Day	Evening	Night	Day	Evening	Night
Darling Walk	65	65	64	71	71	69
Harbourside, Darling Harbour	66	71	64	72	76	71

Notes

Measurements carried out by Wilkinson Murray ref: Report No. 10232 NMP 120912 SF Version A

### 3.3 In-Principle Design Recommendations

A preliminary assessment has been carried out for first floor residential apartments fronting the Boulevard in order to provide an indication of the potential acoustic mitigation measures and demonstrate that the noise objectives can be practically achieved. Acoustic treatment to apartments on higher floors and less exposed orientations would have reduced acoustic requirements.

Assuming external noise levels at the façade of first floor residential premises ('free field' level) to be between 65 and 70dB(A), the following in-principle building envelope treatments are likely to be required when considering the internal noise level criteria set out within the City of Sydney DCP 2012. The acoustic recommendations focus on the window/door glazing as it is typically the weakest element of the building envelope in regard to noise intrusion.

**Table 4 – Indicative Acoustic Treatment Options, External People Noise Level  $L_{eq}$  65 to 70dB(A)**

Room Type	Internal Criteria	Façade Element	Acoustic Rating ( $R_w$ )	Indicative Construction
Bedroom	$L_{Aeq}$ 35	Glazing	35 – 42*	10.38mm laminated glazing with acoustic seals, up to Laminated double glazed, insulated glazing unit.

Room Type	Internal Criteria	Façade Element	Acoustic Rating ( $R_w$ )	Indicative Construction
Living Rooms and other habitable Areas	$L_{Aeq}$ 45	Glazing	28 - 33	6.38mm laminated glazing with acoustic seals, up to 10.38mm laminated glazing with acoustic seals.

Notes: *Bedroom - 12m<sup>2</sup> floor area, glazing area 5.5m<sup>2</sup>*  
*Living Room - 30m<sup>2</sup> floor area, glazing area 12m<sup>2</sup>*  
*Wall construction is recommended to have an acoustic performance 10-15dB greater than the specified glazing.*  
*\* Higher  $R_w$  performance expected that is not directly relative to the dB difference in external noise level.*

It is noted that the floor/ceiling construction of first floor apartments is also expected to require acoustic treatment, however will be dependent upon the nature of the ground floor use. Given that the building construction will comprise a concrete slab separating the ground floor retail and first floor residential occupancies, acoustic upgrade is likely to be in the form of a supplementary acoustically sealed ceiling in the retail tenancy.

### 3.4 Consideration of Other Existing Operations

Consideration of existing operations, such as licensed premises (Pumphouse), needs to be given in terms of their potential to affect the acoustic amenity of the future residential development at The Haymarket. As noted above, the control of noise from such premises is best achieved at the source; however an existing premise is not readily controlled, either through negotiation with operators or legislation. The OLGR considers order of occupancy when assessing noise complaints and therefore it should not be expected that a premises will comply with the standard noise criteria when encroachment has occurred by a new residential receiver.

It is noted that measurement carried out in proximity to the Pumphouse revealed noise levels lower than 70dB(A) at the alignment of the future buildings within the Haymarket. Where necessary, affected residential premises should be designed in accordance with the principles outlined above.

## 4 CONCLUSION

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As outlined, consistent with the recommendations made by the EPA, more specific assessment of construction and operational noise associated with the Plots in the Haymarket will be presented in each respective Stage 2 SSDA.

In response to the Transport for NSW comments, we confirm that the detailed assessment for the Stage 2 SSDAs for each Plot will include assessment of light rail in accordance with SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 and the supporting *Development near busy roads and rail corridors*.

In regard to the noise amenity of residential premises in relation to noise from the retail type uses and public realm, additional detailed design will be required to enable active uses to operate as well as the provision of suitable residential acoustic amenity. However, further to the preliminary noise assessment, indicative building envelope construction requirements for the residential premises have been provided in accordance with the standard noise criteria set out within the City of Sydney DCP 2012. An external noise limit of 65 to 70dB(A) has been assumed for the cumulative impact of retail type premises and the public realm to worst impacted locations at lower floor levels and fronting the Haymarket Square and Boulevard. It is noted that acoustic treatment to apartments on higher floors and less exposed orientations would have reduced acoustic requirements.

Whilst noise from the public realm cannot be directly controlled, use of the area for special events should be managed accordingly. The external noise limits can also be used to derive appropriate limits for individual retail type premises. These criteria would be developed during the design development phase.

We trust that the information and assessment presented demonstrates that internal acoustic amenity within the residential premises of the Haymarket can be provided by suitable design for the building façade as well as management of the retail type uses.

## APPENDIX A - GLOSSARY OF ACOUSTIC TERMS

The following is a brief description of the technical terms used to describe noise to assist in understanding the technical issues presented.

Adverse Weather	Weather effects that enhance noise (that is, wind and temperature inversions) that occur at a site for a significant period of time (that is, wind occurring more than 30% of the time in any assessment period in any season and/or temperature inversions occurring more than 30% of the nights in winter).
Ambient Noise	The all-encompassing noise associated within a given environment at a given time, usually composed of sound from all sources near and far.
Assessment Period	The period in a day over which assessments are made.
Assessment Point	A point at which noise measurements are taken or estimated. A point at which noise measurements are taken or estimated.
Background Noise	Background noise is the term used to describe the underlying level of noise present in the ambient noise, measured in the absence of the noise under investigation, when extraneous noise is removed. It is described as the average of the minimum noise levels measured on a sound level meter and is measured statistically as the A-weighted noise level exceeded for ninety percent of a sample period. This is represented as the L <sub>90</sub> noise level (see below).
Decibel [dB]	<p>The units that sound is measured in. The following are examples of the decibel readings of every day sounds:</p> <p>0dB      The faintest sound we can hear</p> <p>30dB     A quiet library or in a quiet location in the country</p> <p>45dB     Typical office space. Ambience in the city at night</p> <p>60dB     CBD mall at lunch time</p> <p>70dB     The sound of a car passing on the street</p> <p>80dB     Loud music played at home</p> <p>90dB     The sound of a truck passing on the street</p> <p>100dB    The sound of a rock band</p> <p>115dB    Limit of sound permitted in industry</p> <p>120dB    Deafening</p>
dB(A):	A-weighted decibels. The ear is not as effective in hearing low frequency sounds as it is hearing high frequency sounds. That is, low frequency sounds of the same dB level are not heard as loud as high frequency sounds. The sound level meter replicates the human response of the ear by using an electronic filter which is called the "A" filter. A sound level measured with this filter switched on is denoted as dB(A). Practically all noise is measured using the A filter.
Frequency	Frequency is synonymous to pitch. Sounds have a pitch which is peculiar to the nature of the sound generator. For example, the sound of a tiny bell has a high pitch and the sound of a bass drum has a low pitch. Frequency or pitch can be measured on a scale in units of Hertz or Hz.
Impulsive noise	Having a high peak of short duration or a sequence of such peaks. A sequence of impulses in rapid succession is termed repetitive impulsive noise.
Intermittent noise	The level suddenly drops to that of the background noise several times during the period of observation. The time during which the noise remains at levels different from that of the ambient is one second or more.
L <sub>Max</sub>	The maximum sound pressure level measured over a given period.
L <sub>Min</sub>	The minimum sound pressure level measured over a given period.
L <sub>1</sub>	The sound pressure level that is exceeded for 1% of the time for which the given sound is measured.
L <sub>10</sub>	The sound pressure level that is exceeded for 10% of the time for which the given sound is measured.



$L_{90}$	The level of noise exceeded for 90% of the time. The bottom 10% of the sample is the $L_{90}$ noise level expressed in units of dB(A).
$L_{eq}$	The "equivalent noise level" is the summation of noise events and integrated over a selected period of time.
Reflection	Sound wave changed in direction of propagation due to a solid object obscuring its path.
SEL	Sound Exposure Level (SEL) is the constant sound level which, if maintained for a period of 1 second would have the same acoustic energy as the measured noise event. SEL noise measurements are useful as they can be converted to obtain $L_{eq}$ sound levels over any period of time and can be used for predicting noise at various locations.
Sound	A fluctuation of air pressure which is propagated as a wave through air.
Sound Absorption	The ability of a material to absorb sound energy through its conversion into thermal energy.
Sound Level Meter	An instrument consisting of a microphone, amplifier and indicating device, having a declared performance and designed to measure sound pressure levels.
Sound Pressure Level	The level of noise, usually expressed in decibels, as measured by a standard sound level meter with a microphone.
Sound Power Level	Ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the sound power of the source to the reference sound power.
Tonal noise	Containing a prominent frequency and characterised by a definite pitch.