

Noise Hazard Check Questionnaire

Amendment record

This Annex has been reviewed by the Directorate of Defence Safety (DDS) together with relevant subject matter experts and key safety stakeholders. Any suggestions for amendments **should** in the first instance be directed to the Defence organisation's [Safety Centre/Team Group Mailbox](#) and with their approval, sent to COO-DDS-GroupMailbox@mod.gov.uk.

Version No	Date published	Text Affected	Authority
1.2	Oct 20	Interim update post-handover of policy from DSA to D HS&EP.	D HS&EP
1.3	Sep 22	Release of two-part chapter structure.	D HS&EP
1.4	02 Apr 25	Revised to provide closer alignment with the legislation that Defence must comply with.	DDS

Initial assessment

1. The Noise Hazard Check Questionnaire (NHCQ) is an initial assessment to ascertain the presence of a potential noise hazard. If the answer is 'yes' to any of the checks then a noise risk assessment is required.

Question	Y	N
Do personnel work in a noisy environment, for example an engine room, an armoured fighting vehicle, a construction site, engineering workshop, artillery range, airfield, or large open plan office?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are personnel using or working near noisy power tools or equipment for more than half an hour each day in total?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any impacts such as hammering, pneumatic impact tools and so on explosive sources such as cartridge operated tools, detonators, or guns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there areas of the workplace where noise levels could interfere with warning or danger signals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table C-1 Questions to ask personnel to check if there is a potential noise problem

Question	Y	N
Are personnel exposed to noise which makes it necessary to shout to talk to someone 1 meter away, for more than half an hour per day in total? The noise levels here are comparable with that of a pneumatic road drill.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are personnel exposed to noise which makes it necessary to shout to talk to someone 2 meters away, for more than two hours per day in total? The noise levels here are comparable with that of a hand-held power drill.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is conversation at 2 meters possible, but noise is intrusive for more than six hours per day in total? The noise levels here are comparable to a busy street or a crowded restaurant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table C-2 Questions to ask personnel to check for a noise problem by listening check

2. A noise risk assessment **must** be carried out if any personnel are likely to be exposed to noise at or above a lower EAV. Working in an environment of 80 dB (A-weighted) (dB(A)) for eight hours will result in exposure at the lower EAV. The simple tests illustrated in Table 1 can be used to get a rough estimate of whether a noise risk assessment is required.

Test	Probable Approximate noise level	A noise risk assessment will be required if the noise remains at this level for more than:
The noise is intrusive but normal conversation is possible.	80 dB(A)	6 hours
You have to shout to talk to someone 2 metres away.	85 dB(A)	2 hours
You have to shout to talk to someone 1 metre away.	90 dB(A)	45 minutes

Table C-3 Simple tests to see if a noise risk assessment is required (Sourced from The Health and Safety Executive, "HSE L108 - Controlling Noise at Work: The Control of Noise at Work Regulations").

3. Specialist support may be required for the assessment of peak sound pressure levels. These noise sources are typically brief and very loud, which may typically lead to exposure above the lower EAV, for example impulse noise due to firearms discharge, explosive events, impactive tools, drop forges, punch presses or percussive machines working and so on.

4. If the commander, manager or accountable person is satisfied that the personnel under their area of responsibility are not exposed to noise levels that are at or above the lower EAVs then they **should** record that this is the case using the noise risk assessment MOD Form 5017. However, if there is any doubt, it would be best to assume that the lower EAVs have been exceeded.

5. In addition to the risks to hearing damage, the risk assessment **should** also consider associated impacts such as loss of situational awareness and so on. A noise risk assessment, **should** be conducted by a competent person if any of the following are considered essential for health and safety:

- a. for situational awareness purposes; for example, around moving vehicles, in tactical situations, at replenishment-at-sea (and similar) working stations on ships and so on. Note that prolonged noise exposure may cause a Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS), which can significantly impair the required level of awareness.
- b. for command, control and communications purposes; for example, radio rooms, ship's control centres, command posts and so on.
- c. for rest and relaxation purposes; for example sleeping accommodation on board ships which are in close proximity to noise sources.