

Noise assessor competency

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

Assessing competency

1. Noise assessors **must** be competent. This means they have the training, skills, experience and knowledge to undertake a noise risk assessment. Essentially, they **should** have:

- a. knowledge of The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 or where applicable either The Control of Noise at Work (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2006 and / or The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations 2007;
- b. knowledge of MOD policy, for example SofS Policy Statement, JSP 375;
- c. the ability to assess and / or measure noise;
- d. knowledge on how to record results and analyse results;
- e. the ability to explain the results to others in simple to understand language;
- f. the ability to interpret information provided by others, for example noise data by equipment manufacturers;
- g. the ability to identify appropriate control measures;
- h. know the limits of their own knowledge and know when and where to seek further advice; and
- i. up to date competency and knowledge to address skill fade.

2. To assist in gaining the appropriate competence in noise risk assessment, the Institute of Naval Medicine (INM) provide a Noise Assessor Training Course (NATC). This course is for those individuals, service or civilian, who have been nominated by their Commanding Officer/Head of Establishment for training to undertake basic assessments in accordance with the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005.
3. Successful candidates are competent to carry out noise assessments and the competence is valid for three years. Course applications and enquiries to be directed to AO(T) via NAVYINM-TRAINING@mod.gov.uk or 9380 68091/02392768091. Course duration: two and a half days.
4. Noise risk assessment training courses are also provided by the RAF Centre of Aviation Medicine (CAM) at RAF Henlow. This comprises of a four-day course at RAF CAM and a subsequent shorter re-certification course. Course applications and enquiries to be directed to CESO (RAF) via Air-SafetyCtre-CESOMailbox@mod.gov.uk.
5. On successful completion of either of these training courses, personnel **should** notify their local health and safety adviser and update their MyHR/JPA accordingly.
6. A competent person (CP) noise assessor may be available from several sources, these include:
 - a. the local health and safety adviser within the unit / establishment;
 - b. an appropriate engineering adviser;
 - c. Defence organisation's environmental or health personnel;
 - d. civilian occupational hygienists;
 - e. Defence organisation Safety Centre (SC) or equivalent; and
 - f. the Chief Environment and Safety Officer (CESO) or equivalent.
7. If competent advice is not available from the above-mentioned sources, specialist in-house advice and expertise is available initially from the Institute of Naval Medicine (INM) who are able to carry out specialist noise risk assessment. All requests for INM **should** be directed to them by email at NAVYINM-AVS@mod.gov.uk. Advice may also be sought from the RAF Centre of Aviation Medicine (CAM) at Air-Support-CAM-Adm-iHub@mod.gov.uk or the HQ Field Army Environmental Monitoring Team at FdArmy-Sp-EMT@mod.gov.uk.