Acquisition noise safety

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

Acquisition teams

1. Acquisition teams and local procurement teams are those responsible for activities which relate to the ordering and receiving of goods, materials, supplies, equipment, and services. This may include sourcing, negotiation, contracting, the monitoring of supplier's performance and making sure of compliance with operational protocols.

2. Defence acquisitions teams **must** make sure that all equipment, machinery, and platforms that are purchased or supplied comply with the relevant statutory safety requirements or allow for compliance in the context of the planned or foreseeable use of the equipment.

3. Defence acquisitions teams **must** make sure that noise levels are considered as part of the acquisition safety process for equipment, machinery, vehicles, weapons and platforms that are procured or provided for Defence use. Further information on acquisition safety is set out in JSP 376 (Defence Acquisition Safety Policy).

Risk control measures

4. Risk control measures **must** be identified in order that the equipment, machinery or platform is designed and constructed so that the noise emissions produced by its operation are ALARP to personnel in acoustic proximity to that equipment or platform (for example, operators, passengers, maintainers, nearby personnel, and so on). Note that even personnel who are not involved in the use of the equipment but may be affected by the noise generated by it when in operation, **must** also be considered.

5. All new equipment, machinery, and platforms risk control measures **must** be technically engineered to eliminate or minimise noise exposure to the users and others to a level that is ALARP and therefore lower the risk of damage to hearing and other risks, for example loss of SA, when operated. This may, as a last resort, include the use of PPE.

6. The responsibility of acquisition teams is to make sure appropriate design of equipment and platforms or establishments also extends to making sure that rest and recreational spaces are fit for purpose. A range of suitable noise limits are available covering sleeping quarters; medical facilities; teaching or briefing environments; office environments; command, communication and control centres; recreation facilities and so on. Specific technical expertise will likely be required to assess possible requirements and define appropriate noise limits and approaches for achieving these.

7. Additionally, it is imperative that such technical measures and risk control measures **should** be addressed throughout the procurement stage, particularly at the early stages. This is to avoid the associated costs and technical limitations of system redesign if the equipment, machinery, or platform exceeds the EAVs in the legislation when used. Specialist noise expertise, for example by a competent person (CP) as defined in Annex D of this chapter or a professional acoustic engineer, may be required to help define requirements or plan a programme of work. Technical measures **should** include progressive risk mitigation through the:

a. identification of the key noise requirements of the equipment, machinery, or platform;

b. assessment of potential noise exposure to personnel in the foreseeable intended use of the system; and

c. demonstration and assessment of actual noise emissions from a representative sample of the equipment, machinery, or platform in representative usage.

8. The determination of appropriate control measures against high amplitude and / or impulsive noise is complex and challenging, and it will require particularly specialist experience and expertise. Effective protective or control measures against such high amplitude noise are likely to require fundamental engineering of the platform or equipment and **should** be considered at the earliest opportunity in the equipment procurement and acquisition process. Failure to do this is likely to result in serious impacts on the acquisition program and the resulting capability.

9. The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 require manufacturers and suppliers of machinery to make sure that the design and construction of equipment eliminates or reduces noise emissions to a minimum, while taking into account technical limitations. Note, however, that this does not apply to machinery that is designed and constructed exclusively for military or police purposes (not available on the civilian market).

10. Manufacturers are legally required to ensure that machinery is designed and constructed to reduce risks from noise to the lowest level taking account of technical progress. Where the noise from legacy machinery is an issue then the availability of alternative low-noise tools and machinery **should** be considered when periodic reviews of the noise risk assessment are carried out (the Buy Quiet' policy **should** be implemented when buying or hiring machinery).

11. Defence acquisition teams **must** make sure that where noise exposures are likely to be greater than the EAVs in the legislation that:

a. the noise sources are identified;

b. the information is recorded in the safety case; and

c. appropriate information on noise levels and any equipment provided to reduce noise exposure is supplied to the end user to ensure correct installation, use and maintenance.

12. This is applicable to both work and rest activities where personnel are likely to be in the acoustic proximity of the equipment undergoing procurement, once in service.

13. Following risk control measures through engineering solutions, where the noise emissions of equipment or platforms still require the use of PPE to be worn by the end user, for example hearing protection, the acquisition team or local procurement team **must** provide sufficient information on the type of hearing protection required to enable appropriate measures to reduce the noise exposure to the end users and others.

14. When procuring PPE, for example hearing protection, including that which is incorporated as a part of other equipment, for example protective helmets with or without communication systems, acquisition teams **must** make sure that any such equipment complies with the PPE at Work Regulations.

15. Personnel with local purchase responsibility and / or hiring equipment or machinery locally **must** make sure that the equipment is suitable for the activity being undertaken, and that it is supplied with sufficient information to assure its safe use in line with manufacturer's instructions and that this information is passed on to the end user.