

Guide to the 2005 Control of Noise at Work Regulations

Requirement	Below 80dB(A)	Lower action Level 80dB(A)	Upper Action Level 85dB(A)
Employers must:			
Reduce the risk of hearing damage to the lowest level which is reasonably practicable (Reg. 6)	✓	✓	✓
Carry out a risk assessment (Reg. 5)		✓	✓
Reduce noise exposure SFAIRP ¹ by means other than hearing protection (Reg. 6)			✓
Provide health surveillance (audiometry) (Reg. 9)			✓
Give employees info., instruction and training (Reg. 10)			
Risks to their hearing		✓	✓
Findings of the risk assessment		✓	✓
The legal exposure limits		✓	✓
What they should do to minimise risk		✓	✓
How hearing protection can be obtained		✓	✓
How to and the need to report hearing damage		✓	✓
Entitlement to health surveillance <i>and its results</i>		✓	✓
The obligation on employees under the Regs.		✓	✓
Mark the areas where hearing protection is required (Reg. 7)			✓
Hearing protection, SFAIRP ¹ , must be:			
Provided to all employees who ask for them		✓	
Provided to all people exposed to levels above 85dB			✓
Maintained and repaired		✓	✓
Use is mandatory			✓
Ensure SFAIRP, that all who enter a hearing protection zone wear hearing protection ² (Reg. 7)			✓ ²
Employees must:			
Use hearing protection which they are provided with			✓
Use any other noise reducing equipment (e.g. enclosures)		✓	✓
Report any defects in hearing protection or equipment		✓	✓

¹ SFAIRP – So far as is reasonably practicable

² This means that anyone who enters an area where hearing protection is to be used must wear it, even if they do not stay long enough to get their daily 'dose'.