



TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR CONSULTANTS ON SOUND INSULATION AND NOISE CONTROL CRITERIA FOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSED PREMISES.

- 1.0 Appoint an acoustic consultant, registered with the Institute of Acoustics or Association of Noise Consultants, with the brief to undertake a thorough acoustic survey of the neighbourhood with regard to noise sensitive premises near the proposed licensed premises. The survey to identify representative existing background and ambient noise levels during all times of operation of the proposed licensed premises, as $L_{A90(5min)(f)}$ and as real time simultaneous $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ 1/1 octave bands centred on the frequencies 63Hz and 125Hz.
- 2.0 Measurements to be taken 1 metre from the facade of the nearest noise sensitive premises or calculated as for this position from readings taken at appropriate locations. Where the proposed licensed premises share party walls, floor/ceiling partitions or other construction elements with a non-associated noise sensitive premises, then existing background and ambient noise levels as described above shall be measured within those non-associated noise sensitive premises. Where access to such noise sensitive premises is not available, then measurements in similar premises in a similar acoustic environment may be substituted.
- 3.0 Using the results of the acoustic survey, a scheme of sound insulation works and other noise control measures is to be designed for the proposed licensed premises. The objective of the scheme is to ensure that music noise from the proposed licensed premises does not cause undue disturbance or is unreasonably intrusive. The scheme of works and other noise control measures is to be based on predicted minimum internal music noise levels of 95 dB(A) $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ with 95 dB in the 63Hz and 125Hz 1/1 octave bands within the parts of the premises designated for music and dancing.
- 4.0 The schedule of works should achieve the following

Where there are no shared party walls, floor/ceiling partitions or other construction elements with adjoining non-associated noise sensitive premises.

Where the licensed premises is proposed to operate only between 0700 and 2300 the music noise at all times of operation, shall not cause an increase of more than 2dB in the $L_{A90(5min)(f)}$ when compared with the existing equivalent $L_{A90(5min)(f)}$ without the premises in operation.

At the same times the music noise from the proposed licensed premises shall not cause an increase of more than 3dB, above the real time simultaneous $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ 1/1 octave band sound pressure level centred on the frequencies 63Hz and 125Hz, when compared with the existing equivalent $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ (63Hz and 125Hz) taken without the premises in operation.

Where the licensed premises is proposed to operate at any time between 2300 and 0700. the music noise at all times of operation, shall not cause any increase in the $L_{A90(5min)(f)}$ when compared with the existing equivalent $L_{A90(5min)(f)}$ without the premises in operation.

At the same times the music noise from the proposed licensed premises shall not cause any increase in the real time simultaneous $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ 1/1 octave band sound pressure level centred on the frequencies 63Hz and 125Hz, when compared with the existing equivalent $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ (63Hz and 125Hz) taken without the premises in operation.

Measurements to be taken 1 metre from the facade of the nearest noise sensitive premises. Where access to the facade of non-associated noise sensitive premises is not available, then the above music noise levels 1 metre from the facade of non-associated noise sensitive premises shall be predicted by calculation rather than measured.

Where there are shared party walls, floor/ceiling partitions or other construction elements with adjoining non-associated noise sensitive premises.

At all times of operation the music noise from the proposed licensed premises, within adjoining non-associated noise sensitive premises, shall not cause any increase in the $L_{A90(5min)(f)}$ when compared with the existing $L_{A90(5min)(fast)}$ without the premises in operation.

At the same times the music noise from the proposed licensed premises shall not cause any increase in the real time simultaneous $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ 1/1 octave band sound pressure level centred on the frequencies 63Hz and 125Hz, when compared with the existing equivalent $L_{eq(5min)(f)}$ (63Hz and 125Hz) taken without the premises in operation.

Where access to adjoining non-associated noise sensitive premises is not available, then the above music noise levels within the adjoining non-associated noise sensitive premises shall be predicted by calculation rather than measured.

Guidance on the determination of existing background A-Weighted L_{90} and ambient L_{eq} 1/1 octave band sound pressure Levels.

The existing A-weighted background L_{A90} and ambient L_{eq} 1/1 octave band sound pressure levels referred to above are liable to vary at similar times from day to day. In order to establish representative values for these sound levels you are advised to follow the guidance in the current versions of BS 4142 and BS 7445 so as to derive logarithmic mean values, which have a standard deviation as small as possible, based on a representative sample of measurements relating to the hours of the application. The scheme of sound insulation works and other noise control measures is to be designed for the “worst case scenario” of the lowest existing logarithmic mean A-weighted background L_{A90} and ambient L_{eq} 1/1 octave bands (centred at 63Hz and 125Hz), during any time of proposed operation. For example if the premises is proposed to operate in the early hours of Sunday morning and this is when the existing background and ambient noise levels are at their lowest, then equivalent existing background and ambient sound pressure levels at these times are to be used in respect of the above advice.

Where the internal music noise level within the proposed licensed premises shall exceed the minimum internal music noise levels referred to in 3 above, the scheme of works and other measures shall be appropriately adjusted to meet the music noise targets from the proposed licensed premises at or in non-associated noise sensitive premises as stated in above.

- 5.0** Where entertainment noise control devices or automatic volume control systems are permitted they shall be calibrated and set up, to meet the noise control targets in **4.** above. The installation of such devices shall take place under the supervision of an acoustic consultant, registered with the Institute of Acoustics or Association of Noise Consultants, who will provide a certificate of the completion and verification of the calibration and set up. The initial set up is to be witnessed by Council officers from the Environmental Health Department. An annual check of the effectiveness, with re-calibration where necessary, of the devices shall be undertaken by an acoustic consultant, registered with the Institute of Acoustics or Association of Noise Consultants, who shall provide a certificate of verification of the calibration and set up. Copies of the certificates of completion and verification of the calibration and set up, both initially and annually, to be provided to the Council's Licensing Team within 21 days of the check of effectiveness.
- 6.0** Where entertainment noise control devices or automatic volume control systems are permitted they shall be secured within robust lockable security boxing, or similar, to prevent unauthorised access to and tampering with the controls. Access to the controls is to be restricted to the licensee/s. On no account are DJs, musicians or their sound engineers to have access to the entertainment noise control device or automatic volume control system control
- 7.0** The scheme of sound insulation works and other noise control measures designed for the proposed licensed premises is to be submitted for consideration by the Council before execution. Any licence awarded shall not come into operation until the scheme of sound insulation works and other noise control measures has been undertaken in full and the licensee/s notified in writing of the commencement of operation of the licence.

Information on acoustic consultants registered with the Institute of Acoustics or the Association of Noise Consultants can be found via the following

Institute of Acoustics:

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Tel: 01727 848195
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The Association of Noise Consultants

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