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NEW LIMITS FOR NOISE AT NIGHT FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES LOCATED NEAR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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In March 2001, the Ministry for the Environment announced that it would tighten control on construction noise at night in construction sites located close to residences.

2 The Ministry has amended the Environmental Public Health (Control of Noise at Construction Sites) Regulations on 17 May 2001 and incorporated a new set of limits for noise at night from construction projects located near residential buildings. The new limits will come into effect on 1st October 2001.

3 From 1st October 2001, all new construction projects that are located less than 150m from any residential premises are required to observe a lower set of noise limits at night (i.e. 7pm to 7am). Existing projects, where construction works are already on-going, will not be affected by this new limits. The current and new noise limits are shown below.

<u>Current Noise Limits</u>	Maximum noise level permitted for construction sites in decibels (A)	
	7pm ? 10pm	10pm ? 7 am
Leq 12 hours [Reckoned as an equivalent continuous noise level over a period of 12 hours in decibels (A)]	65	65
Leq 5 mins [Reckoned as an equivalent continuous noise level over 5 minutes in decibels (A)]	70	70
<u>New Noise Limits</u>		
Leq 1 hour [Reckoned as an equivalent continuous noise level over a period of 1 hour in decibels (A)]	65	55
Leq 5mins [Reckoned as an equivalent continuous noise level over 5 minutes in decibels (A)]	70	60

4 The day-time (i.e. 7am to 7pm) noise limits remain unchanged.

5 The Ministry has informed developers and contractors of the introduction of new noise limits in March 2001.

6 The new noise limits will ensure that noisy works such as piling, concreting, etc, which is

the bane of residents living near construction sites, do not go on after 7pm. And after 10pm, only quiet work, such as bricklaying, plastering and painting will be possible.

7 Annex 1 provides the new noise limits for the various types of affected buildings.

Annex 1

Maximum Permissible Noise Levels For Construction Work Commencing On or After 1st October 2001

Part I

Types of affected buildings	Maximum noise level permitted for construction sites (reckoned as an equivalent continuous noise level over a period of 12 hours) in decibel (A)	
	7 am ? 7 pm	7 pm ? 7 am
(a) Hospitals, schools, institutions of higher learning, homes for the aged, sick etc	60	50
(b) Residential buildings located less than 150m from the construction site where the noise is being emitted	75	-
(c) Buildings (other than those in paragraphs (a) and (b) above	75	65

Part II

The maximum permissible noise levels for construction sites under Part I are subject to the overall maximum permissible noise levels for any one-hour period as follows:

<u>Types of affected buildings</u>	<u>Maximum noise level permitted for construction sites (reckoned as an equivalent continuous noise level over a period of one hour) in decibel (A)</u>		
	<u>7 am ? 7 pm</u>	<u>7 pm ? 10 pm</u>	<u>10pm ? 7am</u>
<u>(a) Hospitals, schools, institutions of higher learning, homes for the aged, sick etc</u>	-	-	-

<u>(b) Residential buildings located less than 150m from the construction site where the noise is being emitted</u>	-	65	55
<u>(c) Buildings (other than those in paragraphs (a) and (b) above</u>	-	-	-

Part III

The maximum permissible noise levels for construction sites under Part I are subject to the overall maximum permissible noise levels for any 5-minute period as follows:

<u>Types of affected buildings</u>	<u>Maximum noise level permitted for construction sites (reckoned as an equivalent continuous noise level over a period of 5 minutes) in decibel (A)</u>		
	<u>7 am ? 7 pm</u>	<u>7 pm ? 10 pm</u>	<u>10pm ? 7am</u>
<u>(a) Hospitals, schools, institutions of higher learning, homes for the aged, sick etc</u>	75	55	55
<u>(b) Residential buildings located less than 150m from the construction site where the noise is being emitted</u>	90	70	60
<u>(c) Buildings (other than those in paragraphs (a) and (b) above</u>	90	70	70

Examples of Types of Work That Contractors May And May Not Carry Out Under The New Noise Levels.

Generally, contractors will not be able to do any of the following works from 7 pm until 7 am:

All piling works Blasting works Demolition of works Concreting works Use of all equipment and tools driven by compressed air e.g. pneumatic hammers, drills, sanders, concrete vibrators, etc. Use of electric percussion drills and power saws; Use of compactor rammer Use of concrete batching plant Use of heavy machinery for earthworks etc Use of sirens and public announcement systems The works that may be carried out up to 10 pm:
Erection/dismantling of formwork Tying/fixing of steel bars Operation of cranes
Loading/unloading of construction materials The works that may be carried out from 10 pm to 7 am:

Housekeeping Bricklaying Plastering Painting

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