Noise

1. Introduction

Contractors must manage noise effectively when working on LLA premises to protect workers, airport staff, passengers and neighbouring properties.

All work must comply with the Control of Noise at Work Regulations, relevant construction noise codes of practice, and any instructions issued by the LLA Company Representative.

Noise control is essential both for occupational health and for maintaining airport operations without causing unnecessary disturbance.

2. Noise Risk Assessment

- A noise risk assessment and role-based exposure assessment must be completed, made available to staff, and reviewed annually if any of the following apply:
  - Noise is intrusive for most of the working day (e.g., busy road, aircraft noise, machinery)
  - Workers must raise their voices to converse at 2 metres for part of the day.
  - Workers use noisy powered tools or machinery for **more than 30 minutes per day**.
- Noise assessments must be carried out by a **competent person** to quantify noise levels and identify required controls.
- Assessments must be shared with affected workers and incorporated into RAMS.
- Where noisy works may disturb neighbouring properties or airport operations, a **works schedule must be agreed with LLA** before the activity begins.
- Contractors must warn employees of the hazard of **aircraft noise** and ensure appropriate hearing protection is available and used.

3. Noise Action Levels

Contractors must understand and apply the statutory action levels:

- **Lower Exposure Action Value – 80 dB (daily/weekly average):**
  Provide information, training, risk assessment and make hearing protection available.

- **Upper Exposure Action Value – 85 dB (daily/weekly average):**
  Implement reasonably practicable measures to reduce exposure (engineering controls, technical measures).
  Hearing protection becomes mandatory if noise cannot be reduced sufficiently.

- **Exposure Limit Value – 87 dB (daily/weekly average, taking hearing protection into account):**
  No worker may be exposed above this level.

4. Noise Control Measures

- All diesel plant (and petrol plant where permitted) must be fitted with effective, well-maintained exhaust silencers.
- Plant and equipment must incorporate noise suppression measures such as damping, lagging, acoustic covers, screening or absorption panels.
- Acoustic covers must be closed when machines are in use
- Machinery used intermittently must be shut down or throttled back between tasks.

- Pneumatic tools must be fitted with noise-reduction equipment.
- Contractors must ensure all employees and subcontractors use suitable hearing protection where required.

5. Hearing Protection Requirements

Contractors must ensure that:

- Hearing protectors are provided if requested and exposure is between the lower and upper action values.
- Hearing protectors are mandatory when exposure exceeds the upper action value.
- Hearing protection zones are identified and clearly marked.
- Workers receive training on correct use, care and maintenance of hearing protectors.
- Protectors are properly used, maintained and provide sufficient attenuation to reduce exposure below 85 dB at the ear.
- Protectors are suitable for the working environment, comfortable, hygienic and compatible with other PPE.
- A range of protectors is available so workers can choose suitable options.
- Protectors do not over-attenuate noise, which can cause isolation or reluctance to wear them.
- Hearing protection is not made compulsory where the law does not require it.
- A targeted approach is used - protectors should be worn only when needed, not as a blanket rule.