NOISE, DUST & VIBRATION

Introduction

Noise, dust and vibration can be realistically considered together in one procedure because they are not activities in themselves. They are aspects of work activities, and each aspect can pose a risk to health, particularly to the persons carrying out the activity, but also to those in the vicinity.

This procedure describes the legal requirements and outlines the company approach to ensuring compliance. For detailed arrangements, reference is made to Guidance documents within the IMS.

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure compliance with:-	and thereby protecting our employees and other affected persons from work related:-
Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005	incurable hearing damage or loss
COSHH Regulations 2002 (as amended)	Respiratory health risks from substances subject to COSHH Regulations. This applies particularly to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	risk of Hand Arm Vibration caused by use of hand-held power tools which may result in carpal tunnel syndrome and risk of Whole Body Vibration which can be a back pain health risk for employees who drive mobile machines, or other work vehicles over poor surfaces as a main part of their job

References

HSE Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) publications as follows:-

L5 COSHH	L108 Controlling Noise at Work
L140 Hand-Arm Vibration	L141 Whole Body Vibration

Scope

This procedure applies to all participating Companies in the A E Yates IMS and to all activities which involve risks from exposure to noise, dust or vibration. The term Manager refers equally to Site Manager, Yard Manager, Departmental Manager and their deputy supervisory staff.

Noise, dust or vibration levels should never be allowed to reach such levels as to present a health hazard to persons affected by our work (eg members of the public). In practice any such levels are more likely to present a nuisance rather than a health hazard. Nuisance is seen as an environmental issue and is covered by our EMS.

Duties & Responsibilities

Managers have a duty to ensure that risks are explained to operatives who will be using equipment producing significant noise, dust or vibration and also those operatives who will be in the immediate vicinity. Managers are furthermore responsible for imposing adequate risk control measures.

Operatives are responsible for co-operating with control measures applied on their behalf.

Manufacturers, suppliers etc of any article likely to cause noise exposure must provide information on noise levels that may be generated.

Collective and personal protection measures

Collective protection control measures should always take priority over personal protective measures. Collective protection will protect more than one person at a time. Examples of this would be silencers to reduce noise, use of baffles to segregate other people from the noise, water suppression of dust, extraction equipment fitted directly to concrete cutting tools, dampers fitted to machinery to reduce vibration at source. A further advantage of these measures is that once in place, they require very little or no action by others.

The most common example of personal measures is PPE. In contrast to the aforementioned collective measures PPE always relies on an individual to ensure that it is in place, and each piece of PPE only protects one person.

Hierarchy of control measures

The various Regulations listed above requires the employer to ensure that the risk to employees is either eliminated at source or, where this is not practicable, reduced to as low a level as reasonably practicable by the use of control measures.

Typical risk mitigation measures might include:

- designing out the need for a hazardous process
- selecting other working methods which reduce the hazard levels
- the choice of appropriate equipment with a lower hazard level
- the reduction of the hazard by technical means
- limitation of the duration of exposure to the hazard
- information and training for those involved
- maintenance of work equipment
- use of PPE (in combination with other measures higher up this hierarchy) Note: that when using dust masks to counter Respirable Crystalline Silica, the masks must be face fit-tested to the individual user and records must be available to prove this

Procedure in Operation

<u>Risk Reduction by Design</u>

Where we have design input (eg in a Design & Build contract, through early Contractor Involvement, or when responsible for temporary works design) we should consider use of design to eliminate hazard processes or to reduce exposure to that hazard, either by reducing the hazard level or the task duration, or preferably both.

Residual Risk Assessment

Any residual risk still remaining after the above design option must be assessed and controlled. The Site Manager (SM) may use Generic Risk assessments providing that these provide a fair reflection of the work environment. For instance common plant items have associated noise and vibration levels, which depend on the plant being correctly maintained Alternatively the SM may commission hazard surveys of the process in operation. These can then be used to produce site sepcific and / or activity specific risk assessments and control measures.

Control Measures

Control measures are an output from the Risk Asssesment process. They should be documented; this may be in the Risk Assesment, or the Method Statement, or in more significant cases may require specific Work Instruction, and perhaps the use of a Permit.

The Control Measures must always be explained to those at risk, normally by means of briefing (eg RAMS briefing or Start-of-Shift) and recipients should sign to indicate their understanding of the risks and control measures, and their intent to comply with those measures. These receipt records should be filed as part of the Contract Records and archived in accordance with PRO C11 Records and Archiving.

Health Surveillance

In some cases potential exposure to noise, dust or vibration may be high enough for the relevant legislation to require health monitoring. This will be provided in accordance with PRO S05 Health.

IMS Detailed Guidance

The IMS contains detailed guidance on issues covered by this combined procedure, as follows:-

GDN S13 Noise

GDN S14 Dust Hazards (including Respirable Crystalline Silica)

GDN S15 Vibration

End of Document

Authorised by:
John Burke Group HSQE Manager.

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