

Tips on writing a Construction Noise Management Plan

1. What will the noisiest work be?

List the noisiest machines and type of work. If possible, include the sound levels where available from hirers or suppliers. Examples include hammer-driven piling, concrete breaking using rock breakers on foundations near to shared or common walls, jack hammering, saw cutting of steel, concrete pouring and heavy plant such as excavators and generators. Describe where this work will happen on site and when.

2. Who and where are all the neighbours?

What are the distances to the nearest residential and other noise sensitive sites? Preferably draw a diagram showing where local shops, offices, cafes, hotels, education centres and residential sites are located around the construction site. It pays to speak to these neighbours and find out if they have a problem with very noisy work at certain times of the day. Describe how this may have an impact on the work. For example, some demolition in the CBD may have to take place between 7.30am and 9am and between 5pm and 8pm.

3. What can be done about the noisiest work?

Look at as many options as possible for noise controls that are reasonable? For example – barriers placed near to very noisy activities, lower noise producing plant and equipment (electric rather than diesel, concrete crushers rather than breakers) and where plant could best be located on site. Describe how these options can be made to work to reduce noise as much as possible. It will be necessary to state how this will actually be done in practice to plan practical controls in advance.

4. Will standard working hours be exceeded?

The standard working hours are from 7.30am to 6pm on Mondays to Saturdays. Is it likely that any work will take place outside these hours? For example, early morning concrete pours before 7.30am or setting up a crane on a Sunday. Describe how the Council will be contacted to agree to any exemptions and how neighbours will be notified in advance.

5. How will site workers and sub-contractors be supervised?

Describe how measures will be put in place to monitor noise on site and to control noise from sub-contractors and their hours of work. This is a major source of complaints on construction sites, especially if sub-contractors go on site at times when there is no site manager around, though ideally this shouldn't happen.

6. How will site workers be trained?

Describe how all site workers will be made aware of the noise control requirements. For example at site induction or at regular site meetings.

7. How will complaints be handled?

Describe the system for logging and following up complaints, who will take action and feedback to the complainant and what happens if the complainant is still not happy.

8. How will neighbours be kept informed?

Describe which neighbours will need to be consulted about special requirements, who will need to be informed and kept up to date with work on site as it progresses and who will carry this out. For example, will there be letter drops for special works, newsletter updates, regular weekly or monthly meetings with the community and/or Council noise control staff. Will early consultation take place with a noise control officer? Their local knowledge may be beneficial to highlight any special issues to consider. This process has proved to be one of the best things site managers can do to get support from neighbours and avoid time dealing with complaints and the stoppages that can result.

9. Where will contact details be posted?

What are the details of the person responsible on site, their mobile phone number, email address and where will people be able to see this. For example on a site board at the gate, on letters to neighbours.