Control of Noise Standard of Best Practice

MRC Policy is to provide a safe environment and to employ best practice to ensure health, safety and welfare within the workplace. This document sets the expected standard for best practice for the management of noise under MRC Health and Safety Policy. The MRC requires that its directors determine whether noise may present a risk to or impair the work efficiency of staff or visitors. Measures must be introduced to remove or control the unwanted noise.

Scope

This document details the procedures and practices that should be in place to comply with “The Control of Noise at Work Regulations (CNAWR) 2005”. The document also draws attention to unwarranted noise not covered by the regulations and gives appropriate guidance on how to assess and control noise levels in both categories.

Director’s Summary

Directors are responsible for ensuring that arrangements under their responsibility meet or exceed this standard. Noise can be defined as “unwanted sound” which may have a significant effect on the health and welfare of individuals if left uncontrolled.

Noise levels at or above those described in CNAWR may lead to hearing impairment and possibly permanent damage to the hearing mechanism. Individuals must be protected from exposure to excessive noise.

- Directors need to determine whether any individuals are being exposed to noise levels at or above the noise action levels.
- Where excessive noise levels are suspected then a noise risk assessment must be carried out by a competent person.
- Noise risk assessments must be recorded.
- Appropriate steps must be taken to control or reduce the level of noise to ensure the safety of individuals.

This document also draws attention to sources of unwanted noise that may affect the health and work performance of individuals and gives guidance on what to do if a source of unwanted noise is identified.

- Directors should be aware that individuals may be affected by unwanted noise.
- Procedures should be in place to control or reduce “as far as is reasonably practicable” noise levels which impairs performance levels.

MRC Safety, Security and Resilience Section

Head Office

Guidance Notes

Guidance Note 1 – Noise Assessment and Control
Guidance Note 2 – Sources and location of noise
Guidance Note 3 – Low level noise and stress, new equipment and machinery
Guidance Note 4 – Individuals who may be particularly vulnerable to noise