
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations give effect as respects Great Britain to provisions of Council Directive [86/188/EEC](#) (OJNo. L137, 24.5.86, p.28) on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to noise at work.

The Regulations—

- (a) impose requirements on employers with respect to the making and review of noise assessments (*regulation 4*);
- (b) impose requirements on employers with respect to the keeping of records of noise assessments and reviews thereof (*regulation 5*);
- (c) impose requirements on employers with respect to the reduction of risk of damage to the hearing of their employees from exposure to noise (*regulation 6*);
- (d) impose requirements on employers with respect to the reduction of exposure to noise of their employees (*regulation 7*);
- (e) impose requirements on employers with respect to the provision to their employees of personal ear protectors (*regulation 8*);
- (f) impose requirements on employers with respect to the marking of, and entry of their employees into, ear protection zones (*regulation 9*);
- (g) impose requirements on employers and employees with respect to the use and maintenance of equipment provided by employers pursuant to the provisions of the Regulations (*regulation 10*);
- (h) impose requirements on employers with respect to the provision of information, instruction and training to such of their employees as are likely to be exposed to specified noise levels (*regulation 11*);
- (i) modify section 6(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 ([c. 37](#)) (general duties of designers, etc., of articles for use at work and articles of fairground equipment) so that any duty imposed by that subsection includes in specified circumstances a duty to provide certain information relating to noise generation (*regulation 12*);
- (j) provide for the issue of certificates of exemption by the Health and Safety Executive and the Secretary of State for Defence (*regulations 13 and 14 respectively*); and
- (k) revoke regulation 44 of the Woodworking Machines Regulations 1974 ([S.I. 1974/903](#)) (*regulation 15*).

The duties imposed by the Regulations do not (in the circumstances specified in regulation 3(a)) extend to the masters and crews of sea-going ships or to their employers; nor do they (in the circumstances specified in regulation 3(b)) extend to the crews of aircraft and hovercraft or to other persons on board such craft.