

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 2.3.1

Glossary of Noise related terms

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GLOSSARY

Ambient Noise

Totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time usually composed of a sound from many sources near and far.

Background noise level

The A-weighted sound pressure level of the residual noise at the assessment position that is exceeded for 90% of a given time interval, T measured using time weighting F, and quoted to the nearest whole number of decibels.

Day:

0800 hrs to 2200 hrs

Night:

2200 hrs to 0800 hrs

Decibel (dB)

The unit of sound pressure level, calculated as a logarithm of the intensity of sound. 0 dB is the threshold of hearing, 140 dB is the threshold of pain. A change of 1 dB is detectable only under laboratory conditions. A change of 10 dB corresponds approximately to halving or doubling the loudness of sound.

dB(A)

Decibels measured on a sound level meter incorporating a frequency weighting (A weighting) which differentiates between sound of different frequency (pitch) in a similar way to the human ear. Measurements in dB(A) broadly agree with peoples assessment of loudness.

Hertz (Hz)

Unit of frequency (pitch) of a sound.

Impulsive Noise

A noise which is of short duration (typically less than one second), the sound pressure level of which is significantly higher than the background.

1/3 Octave band analysis

Frequency analysis of sound such that the frequency spectrum is sub divided into bands of one third of an octave each. An octave is taken to be the frequency interval, the upper limit of which is twice the lower limit (in Hertz).

L(A)_{eq}

Equivalent Continuous A-weighted Sound Level. The continuous steady noise level, which would have the same total A-weighted acoustic energy as the real fluctuating noise measured over the same period of time.

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L(A)₁₀

The noise level that is equaled or exceeded for 10% of the measurement period.

L(A)₉₀

The noise level that is equaled or exceeded for 90% of the measurement period.

Noise

Unwanted sound. Any sound which has the potential to cause disturbance, discomfort or psychological stress to a subject exposed to it, or any sound which has the potential to cause actual physiological harm to a subject exposed to it or physical damage to any structure exposed to it, is known as noise.

Noise Sensitive Receptor

A noise sensitive receptor is regarded as any dwelling house, hotel or hostel, health building, educational establishment, places of worship or entertainment, or any other facility or area of high amenity which for its proper enjoyment requires the absence of noise at nuisance levels.

Rating level L_{A,T}

The specific noise level plus any adjustment for the characteristic features of the noise.

Residual Noise

The ambient noise remaining at a given position in a given situation when the specific noise source is suppressed to a degree such that it does not contribute to the ambient noise.

Sound Power

The energy output from a source. It is measured in Watts (W).

Specific Noise source

The noise source under investigation for assessing the likelihood of complaints.

Tone

A noise with a narrow frequency composition.

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