

Pol05

Reduction of Noise pollution

Actions:

- i. Complete a noise impact assessment for the site using a suitably qualified acoustic consultant

i. Noise impact assessment

Where there are **noise-sensitive areas** within the assessed building or noise-sensitive areas within **800 m radius** of the assessed site, a noise impact assessment compliant with BS 4142:2014 should be commissioned. Noise levels must be measured or determined for:

- Existing background noise levels:
 - o at the **nearest or most exposed** noise-sensitive development to the proposed assessed site
 - o including existing plant on a building, where the assessed development is an extension to the building
- Noise rating level from the assessed building (see BREEAM pre-assessment for specific details).

The noise impact assessment must be carried out by a **suitably qualified acoustic consultant**.

The noise level from the assessed building, as measured in the locality of the nearest or most exposed noise-sensitive development, must be at least **5dB lower than the background noise** throughout the day and night.

If the noise sources from the assessed building are greater than the levels described above, measures should be installed to **attenuate the noise** at its source to a level where it will comply.

What is a suitably qualified acoustician (SQA)?

An individual achieving all the following items can be considered to be 'suitably qualified' for the purposes of a BREEAM assessment:

- Has a minimum of **three years** relevant experience (within the last five years). Such experience must clearly demonstrate a practical understanding of factors affecting acoustics in relation to construction and the built environment; including, acting in an advisory capacity to **provide recommendations** for suitable acoustic performance levels and mitigation measures.
- An individual who holds a **recognised acoustic qualification** and membership of an appropriate professional body. The primary professional body for acoustics in the UK is the **Institute of Acoustics**.

Note: This document is intended as guidance only. Consult your BREEAM AP or Assessor to ensure compliance is achieved.

Where an SQA is **verifying** the acoustic measurements or calculations carried out by another acoustician who does not meet the SQA requirements, they must, as a minimum, have read and reviewed the report and confirm in writing that they have found it to:

- Represent sound industry practice
- Be appropriate given the building being assessed and scope of works proposed
- Avoid invalid, biased and exaggerated recommendations.

Written confirmation from the third-party verifier should be supplied to provide evidence that they comply with the definition of an SQA.

What classifies as a noise-sensitive area?

- Residential areas
- Hospitals, health centres, care homes, doctor's surgeries etc.
- Schools, colleges and other teaching establishments
- Libraries
- Places of worship
- Wildlife areas, historic landscapes, parks and gardens
- Located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or near a Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Any other development that may contain occupants sensitive to noise created by the new system

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