

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has released the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (July 2009).

The policy sets out noise management levels for residential receivers and how they are to be applied. The policy suggests restriction to the hours of construction that apply to activities that generate noise at residences above the 'highly affected' noise management level. A summary of the noise management levels is contained in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Noise at residences using quantitative method

Time of day	Management level LAeq(15minute)	How to apply
Recommended standard hours Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm Saturday 8am to 1pm No work Sundays or public holidays	Noise Affected RBL + 10 dB	<p>The noise affected level represents the point above which there may be some community reaction to noise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the predicted or measured LAeq (15 min) is greater than the noise affected level, the proponent should apply all feasible and reasonable work practices to meet the noise affected level. The proponent should also inform all potentially impacted residents of the nature of works to be carried out, the expected noise levels and duration, as well as contact details.
	Highly noise affected 75 dBA	<p>The highly noise affected level represents the point above which there may be strong community reaction to noise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where noise is above this level, the relevant authority (consent, determining or regulatory) may require respite periods by restricting the hours that the very noisy activities can occur, taking into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> times identified by the community when they are less sensitive to noise (such as before and after school for works near schools, or mid-morning or mid-afternoon for works near residences) if the community is prepared to accept a longer period of construction in exchange for restrictions on construction times.
Outside recommended standard hours	Noise Affected RBL + 5 dB	<p>A strong justification would typically be required for works outside the recommended standard hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proponent should apply all feasible and reasonable work practices to meet the noise affected level. Where all feasible and reasonable practices have been applied and noise is more than 5 dB(A) above the noise affected level, the proponent should negotiate with the community. For guidance on negotiating agreements see section 7.2.2.