	STR – Safety Management System Section 8.11 Noise	REF: SMS 8.11 ISSUE: 01 DATE: May 2021 PAGE: 1 of 2
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8.11.1 Requirements.

The aim of the Noise Regulations is to ensure that STR staff & volunteers' hearing is protected from excessive noise at their place of work throughout the railway, which could cause them to lose their hearing and / or to suffer from tinnitus (permanent ringing in the ears).

The level at which the STR must provide hearing protection and hearing protection zones is 85 decibels with a peak value of 135 decibels (upper exposure action value), with the level at which employers must assess the risk to workers' health and provide them with information and training is 80 decibels (lower exposure action value)

Additionally, there is also an exposure limit value of 87 decibels, taking account of any reduction in exposure provided by hearing protection, above which workers must not be exposed.

8.11.2 Arrangements.

Any STR premises / railway operations where noise exposure levels may exceed statutory levels are subject to a noise survey and assessment undertaken by a suitably competent contractor.

Noise assessments are repeated when changes to the operation or equipment are likely to affect noise levels and also at regular intervals to ensure they are up to date.

Hearing protection zones will be put in place where the noise assessment results mandate them.


All STR staff & volunteers are trained in the control measures in place at STR premises / railway operations designed to protect their hearing.

Suitable personal protective equipment of an appropriate rating is issued to all STR staff and volunteers who are required to work in a hearing protection zone.

STR staff & volunteers are trained in the use and care of this equipment and correct usage is monitored.

8.11.3 Applicable Legislation.

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (the Noise Regulations).

	STR – Safety Management System Section 8.11 Noise	REF: SMS 8.11 ISSUE: 01 DATE: May 2021 PAGE: 2 of 2
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8.11.4 References.

L198 Edition 2 2005 The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 Guidance on Regulations.

INDG 362 Rev 2 11-2012 Noise at Work A brief guide to controlling the risks.

8.11.5 Documentation.

Noise survey reports.

PPE issue records.