



SULTANATE OF OMAN

MINISTRY OF REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES, ENVIRONMENT & WATER RESOURCES

MINISTERIAL DECISION 80/ 94 DATED 20 MARCH 1994
ISSUING REGULATIONS FOR NOISE POLLUTION
CONTROL IN WORKING ENVIRONMENT



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MINISTERIAL DECISION 80/ 94

ISSUING REGULATIONS FOR NOISE POLLUTION CONTROL IN WORKING ENVIRONMENT

According to the Royal Decree No. (10/82) issuing the Law for The Conservation of Environment and Prevention of Pollution and its amendments.

And according to the requirements of public interest.

Have decided :

- Article - 1** The provisions of the attached Regulations for "Noise Pollution Control in working Environment" shall come into force..
- Article - 2** Work stations shall be given a period of grace to rectify their status, according to the attached Regulations, and the Ministry officials shall define a suitable grace period for each station which shall not exceed one year from the date of enforcement of the Regulations.
- Article - 3** The Environmental Permits, which are issued by this Ministry to new industrial projects, shall include noise abatement measures in accordance with the attached Regulations.
- Article - 4** The Minister may exempt the Armed Forces and Visiting Forces from the Provisions imposed by the attached Regulations for a limited period, and the risk of health for persons to whom the exemption relates, shall be assessed.
- Article - 5** All Laws that contradict with the provisions of the attached Regulations shall be cancelled.
- Article - 6** This decision shall come into force with effect from the date of issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Amer Bin Shuwain Al Hosni
Minister of Regional Municipalities
and Environment.

Issued on : 8th Shawal 1414 H
C.T. : 20th March 1994

REGULATIONS FOR NOISE POLLUTION CONTROL IN WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Article - 1 The terms used in these Regulation shall have the following meanings :

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|---|--|
| 1 - The Minister : | The Minister of Regional Municipalities and Environment. |
| 2 - The Ministry : | The Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Environment. |
| 3 - Decibel (dB) : | A unit for measuring the volume of sound pressure perceived by the human ear. |
| 4 - Decibel (A) : | A unit for measuring the volume of normal sound pressure. |
| 5 - Decibel (C) : | A unit for measuring the volume of high sound pressure. |
| 6 - Equivalent (A) : | A sound filter for measuring normal sounds level. |
| 7 - Equivalent (C) : | A sound filter for measuring high sound level. |
| 8 - Micropascal : | A unit for measuring sound pressure. |
| 9 - Noise in Working Environment : | Noises resulting from internal sources within the working area which adversely affect the employees quality of life. |
| 10 - Noise Level : | The level of continuous sound pressure at the Work place over a period of (10) minutes minimum time in dB (A) with a reference sound pressure of 20 micropascal. |

11 - Employee : A self employed person or employed in one of the industrial projects but excluding persons working on board air-crafts and sea-going vessels.

12 - Employee Daily

Noise Exposure : The level of eight-hour daily noise exposure of an employee, taking into account the effects of ear protectors.

**13 - Sound Power :
Level :**

The quantity indicating the total emission of sound power in all directions.

14 - Workshop :

Any working environment or part thereof irrespective of specific machines, equipment, installations or processes used.

**15 - Sound Pressure
Level in Work
Stations :**

The quantity designating sound emission produced by machines.

Article - 2 The employer, when acquiring new machines, equipment or any noise generating installation which may increase the risk of hearing damage, shall check the following :

- a) Noise emission of the machine due to its operation and installation conditions, as well as the measurement method used for the monitoring of noise levels.
- b) Noise level of ,operator's position.
- c) Sound power level.

Article - 3 The employer shall notify the Ministry of the information mentioned in the previous article to ensure compliance with the provisions of these Regulations.

Article - 4 The noise level which an employee Working in a workshop is exposed to, shall be 85 dB (A).

Article - 5 The employer shall provide the employee exposed to noise level 85 dB (A) during normal working conditions with suitable means of noise abatement.

Ear protectors shall be provided by the employer to an employee exposed to a noise level exceeding 85 dB (A). The attenuation of such protectors shall be at least equal to the amount by which the noise level exceeds 80 dB (A).

Article - 6 The employer, in case of an employee is likely to be exposed to a noise level of 90 dB (A) or above, shall reduce the exposure of that employee by means to be defined by the Ministry aside from ear protectors.

Article - 7 These Regulations are complied with, if the sound level during 24 hours exceeds 85 dB (A) and the employer through special means has reduced the daily noise exposure of an employee to a level less than 85 dB (A).

Article - 8 The employer shall provide suitable means for personal hearing protection and ensure that they are used by workers during the working period if it is impossible to reduce noise level below 90 dB (A) at all times.

Article - 9 The employer, according to the Ministry request, must provide a competent person to carry out a qualified noise assessment and to substantiate that the Regulations are complied with.

Article - 10 The employer must ensure that the noise levels during working hours are kept as low as reasonably practicable, using state-of-the-art technology to minimize noise nuisance. This applies to any type of noise harmful or annoying to employees.

Article - 11 Machines must be designed and constructed in such a way that risks resulting from the emission of airborne noise are reduced to the lowest level possible using state-of-the-art technology and available means particularly at noise source.

The Ministry may consider the provisions of these Regulations are complied with if the A - Weighted sound pressure level at work stations is not exceeding 85 dB (A).

Article - 12 Manufacturers' instructions must give requirements concerning installations and assembly for reducing noise level such as use of dampers.

Article - 13 The technical literature, including instruction manuals, must give the following information concerning airborne noise emission by machines :

- a) Equivalent continuous A - Weighted sound pressure at work stations, where this exceeds 70 dB (A) and where the level does not exceeds 70 dB (A), this fact must be indicated.
- b) Peak C-Weighted instantaneous sound pressure value at work stations, where this exceeds 130 dB (C).

- c) A-Weighted sound level, in dB re 1 pw, emitted by machines for which the equivalent continuous A-Weighted sound pressure level at work stations exceeds 85 dB (A).

Article - 14 The employer must report the operating conditions of the machine during noise measurements and the methods used for measurements. Sound levels must be measured over at least one representative work cycle if the operation conditions of the machine are cyclic.

Article - 15 Where the work station is undefined or cannot be defined, sound pressure levels must be measured in four positions around the machine, each at a distance of one metre from the surface of the machine, by placing the four microphones opposite to the vertical centre line of the machine surfaces, at a height of 1.6 metre above the floor or access platform.