

APPENDIX 1 – Thresholds for hearing protection requirements

Thresholds of noise and the requirement to protect hearing

140dB Peak – 87dB Continuous

Noise level must **NEVER** exceed this at the ear when wearing hearing protection

Examples of noise include jet plane taking off, formula 1 car, pneumatic drills, large jack hammers, fire alarms

137dB Peak – 85dB(A) Continuous

Hearing protection **MUST** be provided and **MUST** be enforced in the workplace

If you have to shout to be heard at 1 metres the noise is intrusive & likely to exceed 90dB(A)

Examples of noise include arc welding, power drills, chainsaws, fork lift truck sirens

135dB Peak – 80dB(A) Continuous

Hearing protection must be available upon request from employees

If you have to shout to be heard at 2 metres the noise is intrusive

Examples of noise include a busy street, vacuum cleaner, crowded restaurant

Less than 135 dB Peak – 80dB(A) Continuous

Noise is not usually considered to be intrusive unless intermittent periods exceed this level with you having to shout to be heard at 2 metres