



CONSTRUCTION NOISE

Noise from construction work can often cause a disturbance to neighbours close to construction sites, particularly when the works occur outside 'normal working hours'.

While it is expected that many construction activities will produce noise that is loud, there are methods of reducing noise levels in order to meet the relevant standard (New Zealand Standard 6803). These include screening of the noise source from affected persons, using quieter alternative equipment, or quietening equipment with additional or more robust mufflers or insulation.

Noise that is deemed 'excessive' by a Council Noise Control Officer must be abated immediately.

Section 16 of the Resource Management Act also requires that every site operator adopt the best practicable option to ensure noise does not exceed a reasonable level. This means that even if the recommended upper limits are not being exceeded, everything should be done on site to minimise noise if it is easily achievable and not cost prohibitive.

All noisy work should, where possible be timed to cause the least annoyance to people living and working close to the site.

The following table is from the relevant New Zealand Standard and provides recommended upper limits for various times and days of the week.

RECOMMENDED UPPER LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK NOISE IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Noise Level (dBA)

Time Period	Weekdays			Saturdays			Sundays and Public Holidays		
Hours Between	L10	L95	Lmax	L10	L95	Lmax	L10	L95	Lmax
6:30am – 7:30am	60	45	70	*	*	*	*	*	*
7:30am – 6:00pm	75	60	90	75	60	90	*	*	*
6:00pm – 8:00pm	70	55	85	*	*	*	*	*	*
8:00pm – 6:30am	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

* At these times the relevant provisions of NZS6802 shall apply. This may mean that no noisy work can take place during these hours.

RECOMMENDED UPPER LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK NOISE IN COMMERCIAL AREAS*

Noise Level (dBA)

Time Period [hours between]	L10	L95
7:30am – 6:00pm	75	60
6:00pm – 7:30am	80	N/A

* *Where the affected premises are hotels, libraries, cultural centres and so on which have more noise sensitive activities, then the limits in the table for residential areas shall apply.*

NOTICE TO AFFECTED PARTIES Noise problems can be easily avoided by providing prior notification to affected parties such as nearby neighbours. The attached form can be copied and distributed to potentially affected persons.

For more information about the New Zealand construction noise standard and methods of reducing noise, please contact one of Council's Environmental Health Officers on 570 6666.

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED WORKS

To The property owner/resident/business

This is to advise you of nearby construction/road works that will be carried out soon.

Location of work
Description of work
The work is being done for
Expected duration
Hours of work
Any parking restrictions

We regret any inconvenience that may be caused by this work.

If you have a problem, please contact us at the number/s below.

Contractor
Contact numbers

cc The Environmental Health office
 Hutt City Council
 30 Laings Road
 Lower Hutt
 Email: environmental.health@huttcity.govt.nz