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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Large music events involving high powered amplification are held in

stadia, arenas, open air sites and within lightweight buildings. These events give pleasure to hundreds and in some cases thousands of people. However, it

from these events can cause direct

1.5 This Code is designed to assist those planning a music event, those responsible for licensing such events and those responsible for enforcing the nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (England and Wales) and the

Control of Pollution Act 1974 (Scotland). It addresses the environmental problem of noise from the performance and sound checks only. Other environmental

impacts of concerts and the question of meeting the requirements of the Noise at Work Regulations 1989 and the guidance given in the Health and Safety Executive's Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Pop Concerts and similar

events are beyond the scope of this document.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Background Noise Level: The prevailing sound level at a location, measured in terms of the $L_{A90,T}$, on an equivalent day and at an equivalent time when no concert or sound checks are taking place.

dB(A): The A-weighted sound pressure level whereby various frequency components of sound are weighted (equalized) to

reflect the way the human ear responds to sound.

frequencies.

Delay Tower: An additional set of loudspeakers employed to provide

Music Event: A concert or similar event where live or recorded music is performed by a solo or group of artists before an audience

Music Noise: The noise from the music and vocals during a concert or

sound checks and not affected by other local noise sources

Music Noise: The noise from the music and vocals during a concert or

Rural Venue: A park, open space or grounds of a country house in a rural

area not normally used for

Sound Engineer: Person employed to control the sound quality of the music for the audience.

Urban Studio: A

3.0 GUIDELINES

3.1 The Music Noise Levels (MNL) when assessed at the prediction stage or

measured during actual operation should not exceed the following values:

6. Account should be taken of the noise impact of other events at a venue. It may be appropriate to reduce the permitted noise from a concert if the other events are noisy.

7. For venues where just one event has been held on one day in any one year, it has been found possible to adopt a higher limit value without causing an unacceptable level of disturbance.

3.2 For events continuing or held between the hours 2300 and 0900 the music noise should not be audible within noise sensitive areas.

open in a typical manner for ventilation.

2. Although no precise guidance is available the following may be found helpful (Ref B):

... Although no precise guidance is available the following may be found helpful (Ref B):

... or more in either of these octave frequency bands causes significant disturbance.

3.5 Complaints may occur simply because people some distance from the event

... must be loud even

readings will give an estimate of the music noise level. A further option
would be to measure the Associated ...

RECOMMENDED NOISE CONTROL PROCEDURE

... developed over several years and found to provide

4.5 The local authority should make use of licensing conditions and statutory powers to implement the procedures described in this Code of Practice. Examples of possible conditions are given in Appendix III.

4.6 The Noise Consultant should be appointed

Before the Event

4.7 Install the loudspeaker system early enough to enable alignment and orientation to be optimized

4.8 Carry out a sound test prior to event

control. This should include the local police authority.

Note to Guideline 4.10

especially in the vicinity of the mixer.

4.11

Carry out noise monitoring within the venue at the noise monitoring position

the event. If the event

APPENDIX I

References

1. Noise Control Techniques and Guidelines for Open Air Concerts, J.E.T. Griffiths, S.W. Turner and A.D. Wallis (ProcIOA, Vol 7, Part 3, 1985).
2. A Noise Control Procedure for Open Air Pop Concerts, J.E.T. Griffiths, S.W. Turner and A.D. Wallis (ProcIOA, Vol 8, Part 4, 1986).
3. Noise Control in the Built Environment, edited by John Roberts and Diane Fairhall, Gower Technical, 1988 (Chapters 1, 2 and 3).

APPENDIX II

Noise Council Working Party Membership

[REDACTED] Somerville*

Department of Environmental Health, City of Edinburgh

APPENDIX III

Sample Conditions Concerning
Environmental Noise Control at Concerts

1.0 The licensee shall appoint a suitably qualified and experienced noise control consultant⁺, to the approval of the Licensing Authority, no later than..... weeks prior to the event. The noise control

sound system supplier, sound engineer and the licensing authority etc. on all matters relating to noise control prior to, and during,

... a track set of the mixer position shall be adequate to ensure that

9.0 Music from the event is permitted only between the following hours:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Note: Suitable noise conditions should also be considered with respect to

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

