

APPENDIX 1

EXAMPLE OF EQUIPMENT NOISE MEASUREMENT PROCESS

When the noise level of an individual piece of equipment needs to be measured, the environment in which the measurement will take place must be assessed to determine which other equipment is operating in the vicinity. This is necessary as such background noise will have an effect on the noise measurement results of the piece of equipment to be measured. In order to obtain the most accurate noise measurement result, it is important to isolate any other operating equipment as far as practicable. Only equipment which can be safely isolated and which will not have an effect on the health and safety of employees should be isolated. The type of equipment which could not be isolated must be recorded and included in the noise measurement report.

BELOW ARE THE STEPS TO FOLLOW PRIOR TO PERFORMING NOISE MEASUREMENT ON AN IDENTIFIED PIECE OF EQUIPMENT:

- 1:** Identify the equipment to be measured.
- 2:** Determine the background noise level present in the area to be measured. (Define the distance away from the equipment to be measured e.g. 6m away)
- 3:** Which equipment or activities can be safely stopped or switched off?
- 4:** Isolate the equipment and activities identified in step 3 above, where required.
- 5:** Conduct background noise measurements.
- 6:** Record the background noise level present, together with the relevant information on the equipment and/or activities which could not be isolated.
- 7:** Conduct noise measurements according to steps 3 and 4 above. Measurement of any cyclic equipment must take place from the initial start to the end of such cycle. i.e. a rock drill will be measured from starting the machine, collaring, drilling and withdrawing the machine.
- 8:** Once the noise measurement process for the equipment being evaluated is complete, all other equipment and/or activities which constituted the background noise within the area could be restarted and the entire process should be repeated for every other piece of equipment to be evaluated.
- 9:** Record all the other relevant information, as specified in the Data reporting section of the Guidance note for noise Measurement of equipment to ensure compliance with MHSC milestones. (The report should also indicate the microphone positions in relation to the equipment and surroundings evaluated, for future reference)

