

Business Information Sheet

Number 5f: Commercial Property: Planning Guidance - Air conditioning Units & Noise Assessment

A planning application for aircon/chiller units needs to include a noise report in support of the application.

The noise report will detail the installation and the operating parameters of the unit(s) in relation to the surrounding environment and any required works to ensure that they do not cause an increase in background noise levels and do not cause a nuisance to others when in use.

Thus if the units are to be used during the day, then the assessment needs to be carried out during the day.

If the units are to be used during the night, then the assessment needs to be carried out at night.

If the units are to be used night and day, then the assessment needs to relate to both day and night.

The noise report needs to be carried out in terms of British Standard BS4142.

BS 4142 is the British Standard that describes the methods for determining, at the outside of a building:

- a) noise levels from factories, or industrial premises, or fixed installations, or sources of an industrial nature in commercial premises; and
- b) background noise level.

This standard also describes a method for assessing whether the noise referred to is likely to give rise to complaints from people residing in the building. This standard may be helpful in certain aspects of environmental planning and may be used in conjunction with recommendations on noise levels and methods of measurement published elsewhere.

Noise assessment is a skilled operation and should be undertaken only by persons who are competent in the procedures. Noise consultants can be found via the Institute of Acoustics or the Association of Noise Consultants.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on preparing and submitting a noise, vibration and ventilation assessment, please see the following links below:

Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (Communities and Local Government):
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg24

The Institute of Acoustics: www.ioa.org.uk/find-a-specialist/

The Association of Noise Consultants: www.association-of-noise-consultants.co.uk/

British Standards: www.bsigroup.co.uk/


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London Borough of Harrow Community Safety Services (Environmental Health)

FREEPOST HA4 343
PO Box 18
Civic Centre
Station Road
Harrow
HA1 2XY

 020 8901 2600

 0845 280 1845

 community.safety@harrow.gov.uk