

Practical development of HSE's Buy Quiet initiative

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Encourage pincer approach

Purchasers demand quality Noise & Vibration information (before paying)



HSE Work with suppliers & Encourage good EU standards development

Building on success... Low vibration tools



Buy Quiet Launch

- 2nd March 2010 at a football stadium in Coventry
- Well attended with a good spectrum of industry and other stakeholders
- Industry and noise control case studies
- Good feedback



Delegates believed...

We held a series of workshop sessions to answer a set of questions.

Some of the responses took us by surprise...

Workshop Questions

1. Who wants quiet machinery?
2. Why are machines still noisy?
3. What use is manufacturers noise information
4. Who will pay for quiet machines?
5. What would help sell quieter machines?
6. Who needs to co-operate with whom to achieve widest use of quieter machinery?
7. Are companies within EU States looking for low noise equipment?
8. Does every customer need to be an acoustician?
9. What is the cost of protecting workers from noisy machines?
10. What causes deafness?
11. What training would be most helpful on noise and deafness?
12. Are messages on noise clear?
13. What features would you expect in new, low noise machinery?

Workshop findings

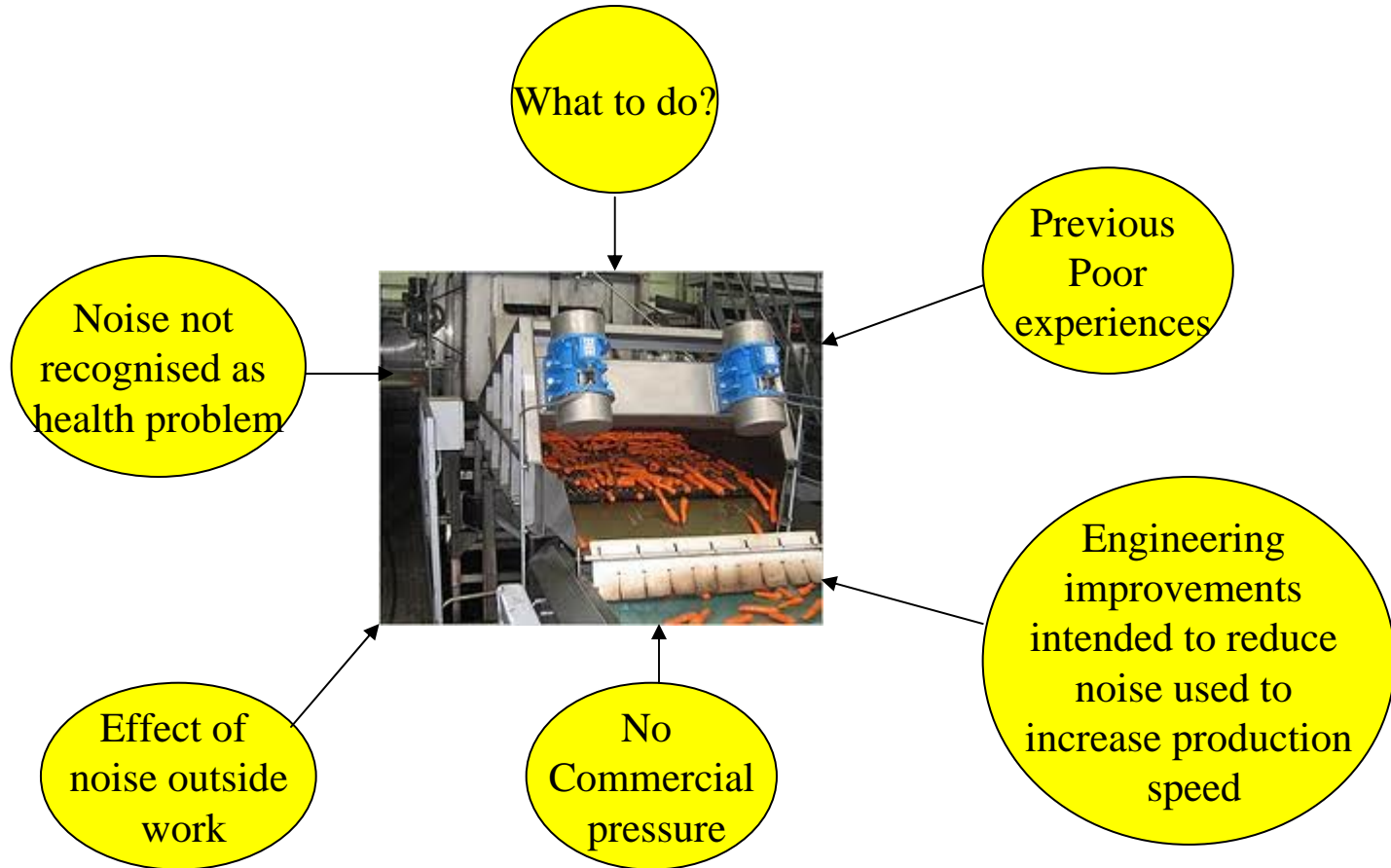
- noise is not seen as an important occupational health risk in the minds of those who produce workplace equipment or of those who manage the use of that equipment

The reality

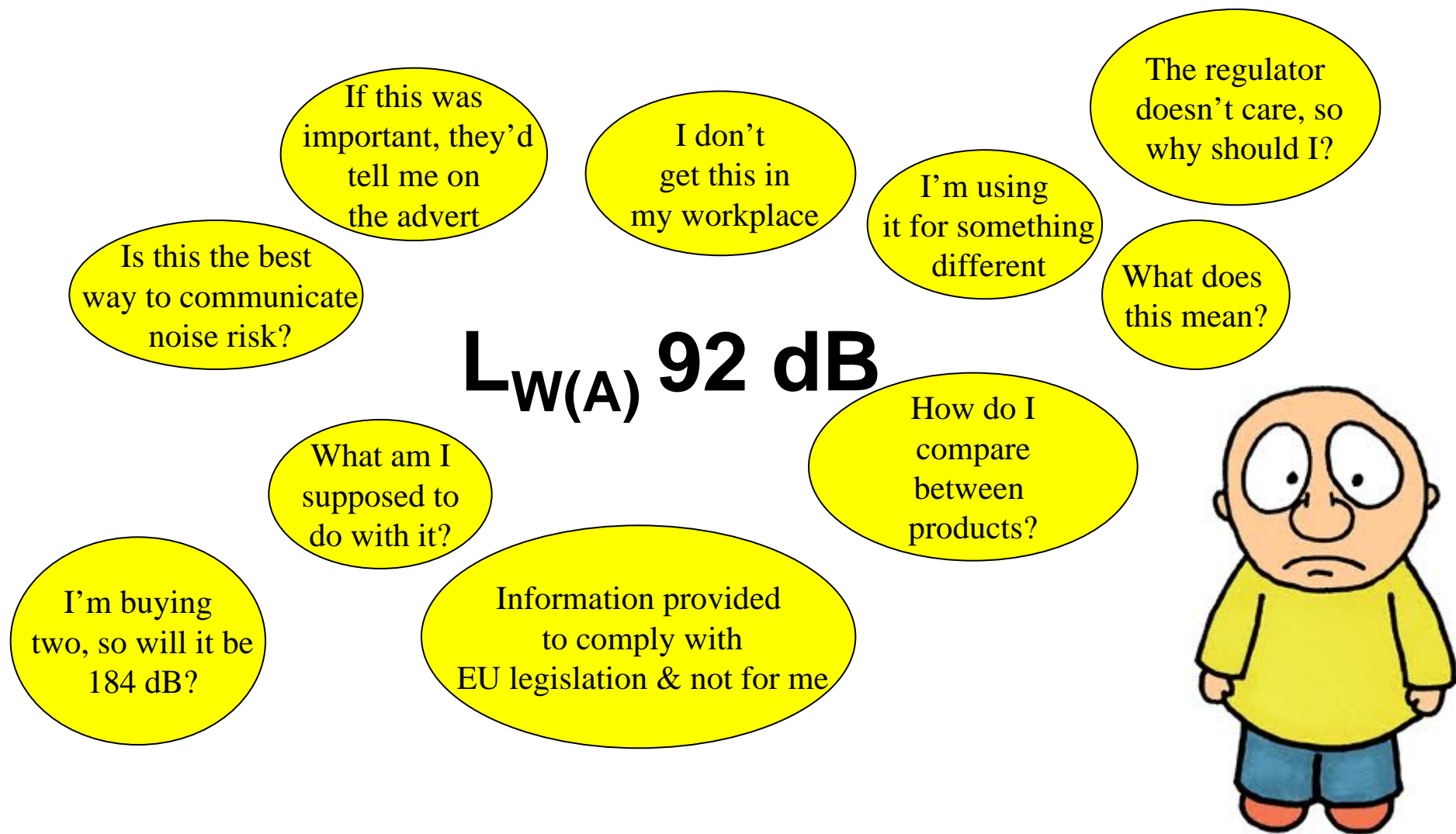
- 1:6 people in the UK have some level of hearing loss (equivalent to 10 million people). Action on Hearing Loss
- Exposure to excessive noise is classified by World Health Organisation (WHO) as the major avoidable cause of permanent hearing impairment worldwide.
- In 2009/10 an estimated 21 000 individuals who worked in the last 12 months were suffering hearing problems which they believed to be work-related, according to the UK Labour Force Survey.



Why are Machines still noisy?



What use is manufacturers' noise information?



What would help sell quieter machines?

- If low noise reduces costs
- If low noise is required by insurers.
- If authorities enforce on low noise.
- If manufacturers can make money from lower noise.
- If Market Surveillance makes low noise machines available.
- If local restrictions on noise emissions are in force in a similar way to the regulations applying to outdoor equipment.
- If genuinely quieter machines can be distinguished from the others
 - which requires the supply of reliable noise emission information.
- Because morale/productivity improves with low noise
- If noise of machinery is regulated and not the noise exposure of operators

Does every customer need to be an acoustician?

- Competent help must be at hand
- Information and advice from manufacturers needs to be readily understood
- Noise tests appear too complicated and unrelated to workplaces
- Users seek information that describes the risks they are required to manage, i.e. noise exposure information
- Manufacturers face customer scepticism about relevance of information to normal factory use.

What is the cost of protecting workers from noisy machines?

Employers feel that they are on their own and cover all business costs from managing noise including:

- Where noise controls have reduced productivity and increased production costs
- Interpretation and understanding of guidance, development of controls, testing, etc.
- Cost of information, instruction and training for employees
- Costs of PPE
- Cost of health surveillance
- Cost of taking action against manufacturers where their data is misleading

Nobody mentioned the cost to machinery manufacturers

No-one felt confident to make a realistic estimate of actual costs

What features would you expect in new, low noise machinery?



- Enclosures were most frequently cited.
- There was some recognition that engineering solutions are possible:
 - Use of alternative materials that transmit noise less readily.
 - Design from scratch should give major gains
- Noise controls should complement control of other risks, such as access, maintenance or cleaning.

Delegates at the launch of 'Buy Quiet' reached consensus that changes can and should be made to equip factories with quieter machinery.

...How?

BQ development

- Build on international links
- HSE website development
- Target activities for maximum impact
 - initially target noisy components with reasonably practicable low noise controls

Buy Quiet website



Health and Safety Executive

Home News Guidance About you About HSE Notify HSE

HSE > Guidance > Topics > Noise > Buy Quiet

Noise at work

- Buy Quiet
- Key messages
- About
- Join the partnership
- Providing and using noise information
- Resources
- Feedback


Related content

- Vibration
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Worker involvement
- Report an incident

Buy Quiet

The Buy Quiet campaign was launched to help manufacturers, importers, suppliers and users of equipment to work together to reduce the risk of noise-induced hearing loss in the workplace.

- Key messages
- Background
- Regulation
- Enforcement



Resources

Since the Buy Quiet campaign launch in March 2010 national and international activity is increasing.

- Legislation and standards
- Publications
- Research
- Useful links
- Terms explained

More resources

Providing and using noise information

What you need to know as a:

- Manufacturer
- Importer or supplier
- Purchaser
- User

More on providing information

Regulation

Exposure to loud noise is a risk to health. Where exposure to loud noise at work is unavoidable, employers should minimise risk by managing exposure including selecting suitable work equipment.

More on regulation

Join the Buy Quiet partnership

Since the Buy Quiet campaign launch in March 2010 national and international activity is increasing.

- Read our case studies
- Share your experiences

More about the partnership

News	Guidance	About you	About HSE	Notify HSE	Search
Media centre	Topics	Consultations	Inside HSE	Report an incident	Advanced search
Subscribe	Industries	Communities	HSE's people	FAQs	A-Z
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Myth of the month			Selling to HSE	Complaints	Privacy and cookies
Campaigns			Strategies and plans	Confidentiality	Accessibility
Events			Timeline	Contact HSE	

Devdgv - Business Link

Information in: Shqip / Albanian

Success looks like this...



How

- The “Buy Quiet” message will be promoted to large purchasers of tools and machinery in a range of target sectors via a sustained range of education and promotion activities.
- The project will need to run for the next five to ten years in order to achieve a sustained change in purchasing behaviour and to see this impact on the design and packaging of new tools and machinery.

Reasons not to BQ

- it's too difficult...
- too hard...
- too expensive...

.... we need to **change** perceptions

Questions?

Thank you for listening

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