

Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations (SMR)

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 No1597): Requirements relating to noise risks*

SMR is the British implementation of the European 'Machinery Directive' (Directive 2006/42/EC). This Directive exists to support the free movement of goods within the European Economic Area (EEA). It establishes essential health and safety requirements for machinery supplied in the EEA and these include general and specific requirements regarding noise.

SMR requires manufacturers, importers and suppliers of noise-emitting machinery to:

- design and construct such machinery so that it can be operated, adjusted and maintained without putting people at risk and, for noise, reduce risks from noise emissions to the lowest level taking account of technical progress and the availability of means of reducing noise, in particular at source (Schedule 2, Part 1, Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSRs 1.1.2 and 1.5.8)
- provide information to warn where there are residual risks (Schedule 2, Part 1, EHSRs, 1.1.2 and 1.7.2)
- provide, in the instructions accompanying the machine, information to reduce risks (Schedule 2, Part 1, EHSRs 1.1.2 and 1.7.4.2(h, j, k, l and m among others))
- provide in the instructions accompanying the machine information on noise emissions and the uncertainties surrounding them including, as required according to Schedule 2, Part 1, EHSR 1.7.4.2(u):
 - the A-weighted sound pressure level at workstations when it exceeds 70dBA,
 - the peak C-weighted sound pressure level at workstations where this exceeds 63Pa (130dB in relation to 20µPa)
 - the A-weighted sound power level when the sound pressure level at workstations exceeds 80dBA. (See also the Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for use Outdoors Regulations 2001 (www.hse.gov.uk/noise/nemor.pdf) as amended †)
 - the values must be either those actually measured for the machinery in question or those established on the basis of measurements taken for technically comparable machinery representative of the machinery to be produced
 - in the case of very large machinery, instead of the A-weighted sound power level, the A-weighted emission sound pressure levels at specified positions around the machinery may be indicated
- provide in any sales literature describing the performance characteristics of machinery, the same information on noise emissions as is contained in the instructions (Schedule 2, Part 1, EHSR 1.7.4.3)

* The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992 as amended applied until 29 December 2009.

† Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for Use Outdoors Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1701), as amended by SI 2001/3958, SI 2005 No3525 and SI 2008 No1597. (www.dft.gov.uk/vca/enforcement/noise-emissions-in-t.asp)

Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:157:0024:0086:EN:PDF>)

* See also Appendix 4 of Controlling noise at work available via HSE books. (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l108.htm>)