

Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for Use Outdoors (NEEEOR)

The intention of the legislation is to control and monitor noise of equipment for use outdoors so as to reduce noise nuisance and to remove technical barriers to trade arising out of European member states' different noise requirements.

The scope of the Outdoor Noise Directive comprises a wide range of construction plant and equipment, equipment for gardens, for lifting, pumps, drills, saws etc.

A full listing of the equipment covered by the Outdoor Noise Directive can be found in the guidance booklet – 'Product standards – Noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors – Guidance notes on the UK Regulations' (see <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file11305.pdf>).

Manufacturers are required to measure, or have measured, the sound power level of the 57 categories of equipment listed in the Directive, 22 of which have to meet limits. Sound power level declarations made under these Regulations for outdoor machines are used in place of SMR declarations.

Labels (see Figure 1) need to be affixed to each item of equipment showing the sound power level that will not be exceeded,



Figure 1 Example sound power label

The Directive was implemented into UK law by the Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for Use Outdoors Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1701), as amended by SI 2001/3958 and SI 2005 No3525 (see www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2001/20011701.htm, www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2001/20013958.htm, www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20053525.htm).

Enforcement of NEEOR is carried out by the Vehicle Certification Agency (see www.vca.gov.uk).

The sponsor department is the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (www.bis.gov.uk).