

## Control and management of noise risks in WOODWORKING

**Table 1. Established noise control methods for high-risk activities**

High risk activity / process	Example noise levels, dB*	Established noise control methods	Further information (links)
Circular saws	97 – 102	When purchasing new blades obtain 'low noise blades'.	Noise control in sawmilling ( <i>see HSE noise web pages</i> )
Vertical spindle moulders	95 – 100	The use of limited cutter projection tooling will reduce noise levels and should have been in place since 2003 under PUWER.	Woodworking Information Sheet 18 - <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis18.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis18.pdf</a> Woodworking Information Sheet 37 - <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis37.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis37.pdf</a>
Multi-spindle planer moulders	up to 105	Segmented blocks (widely available) can reduce in-feed noise levels. Properly designed and maintained chip extraction systems (where not part of integral enclosure) will reduce idling noise levels. Use smoother profile blocks with low blade projection. Slotted or perforated table lips can reduce idling noise levels. Reductions in noise can be made by reducing the cutter's rotational speed, and increasing the number of knives on the cutter. There should be a noise enclosure, either as an integral part of the machine or retrofitted. As with all noise enclosures it should be of suitable design, form as complete an enclosure as possible, and be properly maintained and used.	Noise reduction at multi-spindle planing and moulding machines (from HSG172) ( <i>see HSE noise web pages</i> ) Air turbulence noise ( <i>see HSE noise web pages</i> ) - (from paragraphs 204 – 206 of L108 "Controlling noise at work", ISBN 0-7176-6164-4, available from HSE Books at <a href="http://www.hsebooks.co.uk">www.hsebooks.co.uk</a> )
Band resaws	95 – 105	Maintenance of machine (e.g. pulley scrapers, lubricating felt pads or sawdust extraction system) and blade, combined with blade adjustment, are extremely important for noise levels. Noise enclosure of band-resaws is considered to be reasonably practicable.	Woodworking Information Sheet 4 - <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis4.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis4.htm</a> Woodworking Information Sheet 5 - <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis5.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis5.pdf</a> (WIS4 & 5 are to be combined in to a revised WIS4 due to be published around June 2007) Noise control in sawmilling (from HSG172) ( <i>see HSE noise web pages</i> )

\* Sample  $L_{Aeq}$ . The noise levels are indicative only and will vary depending on equipment type and conditions of use.

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Planer thicknesser	97 – 101	Reductions of 7 to 13dB have been achieved during thicknessing only by adjustment of the table to slightly increase gap between cutter and table. <i>Not</i> to be used when the machine is used for planing when the timber is fed across the top of the cutter.	Air turbulence noise ( <i>see HSE noise web pages</i> ) - (from paragraphs 204 – 206 of L108 “Controlling noise at work”, ISBN 0-7176-6164-4, available from HSE Books at <a href="http://www.hsebooks.co.uk">www.hsebooks.co.uk</a> )  Example: Removing woodworking machine noise by adjustment (HSG138 #57) ( <i>see HSE noise web pages</i> )
Small hand fed thicknesser	104	Enclosure (can be as simple as a 15mm lined chipboard box).	
Chipper/hoggers		Segregation of machine from work areas, or enclosure of machine.	

**See also Table 2. Management of noise risks**

