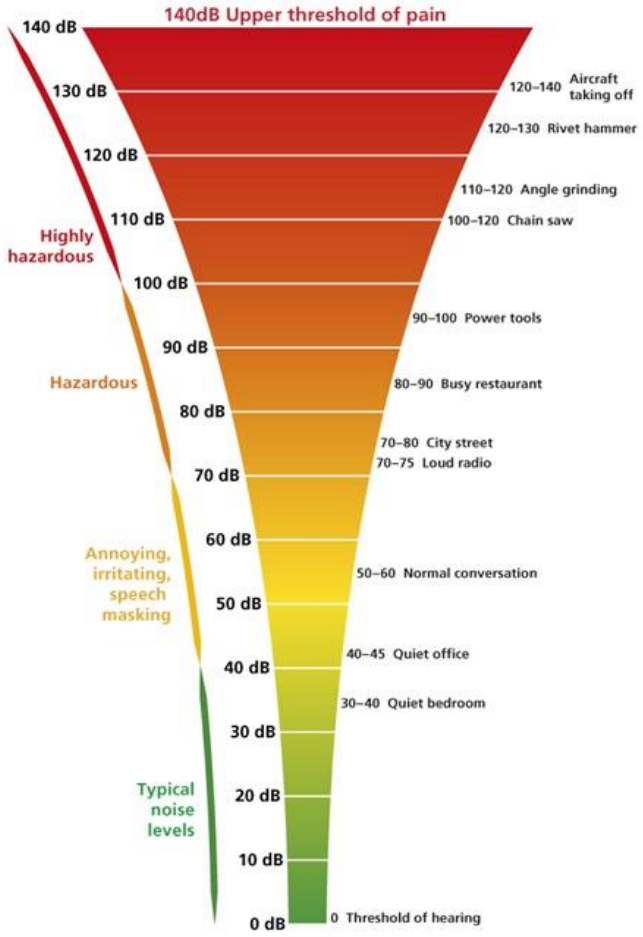
TOOLBOX TALK

NOISE

PREVENTION OF HEARING DAMAGE -

Exposure to high levels of noise can cause permanent hearing loss. Neither surgery nor a hearing aid can help correct this type of hearing loss. Short term exposure to loud noise can also cause a temporary change in hearing (your ears may feel stuffed up) or a ringing in your ears (tinnitus). These short-term problems may go away within a few minutes or hours after leaving the noise. However, repeated exposures to loud noise can lead to permanent tinnitus and/or hearing loss over time.





Construction sites are generally very noisy places of work.

Repeated exposure to noise from works operations over time will result in your hearing being affected.

Your Employer must risk assess your activity of work and advise you if hearing protection is required. This is formally recorded in your RAMS. If you are unsure about the level of noise associated with your activity of work or noise being generated by another subcontractor, speak to your Supervisor.

11 million
people in the UK suffer from hearing loss

900K+
people in the UK are severely or profoundly deaf

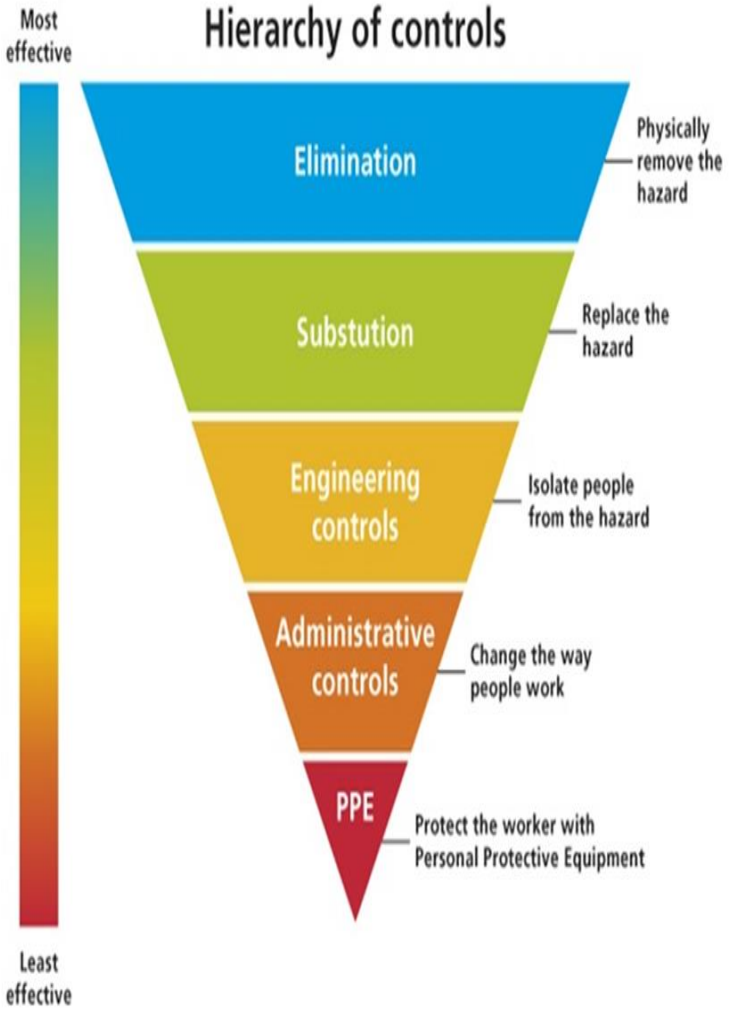
20K
people during the last year suffered from hearing loss – caused or made worse by work

1 in 5
people in the UK will suffer from hearing loss by 2035

TOOLBOX TALK

NOISE

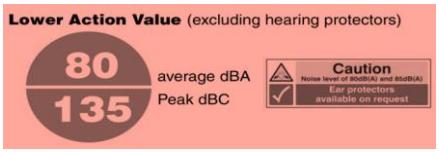
PREVENTION OF HEARING DAMAGE -

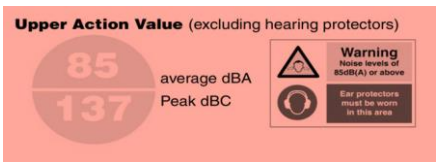


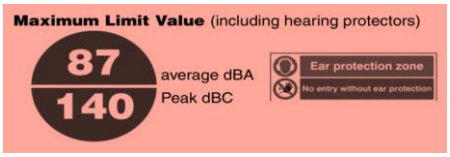
EMPLOYERS SHOULD:

- Identify any work activities that produce noise and risk assess the process, considering:
  - How risks could be eliminated by doing the work in a different way?
  - Whether work, processes or machines could be modified to reduce noise emissions.
  - Select tools / machinery with lower noise emissions where possible.
  - Use cutting booths / acoustic barriers to minimise the effects of the noise in the area surrounding the works. Put Hearing protection zones in place where the noise generated by their works may affect others working in nearby areas.
- Measure and Monitor the noise generated by their activities on site to.
- Provide suitable hearing protection to persons whose exposure to noise cannot be avoided.
- Provide health surveillance to those employees whose exposure to noise cannot be avoided.

The **level** at which employers must provide hearing protection and hearing protection zones is now 85 decibels (daily or weekly average exposure) and the **level** at which employers must assess the risk to workers' health and provide them with information and training is now 80 decibels.









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