



Noise emissions in
the environment
by
equipment for use outdoors

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Noise Emissions

Overview

The EC Noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors Directive was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 3 July 2000 as Directive 2000/14/EC. The Directive arises from the European Community's (EC) programme for the elimination of technical barriers to trade and is formulated under the 'Global Approach'. Its purpose is to harmonise national laws of member States regarding noise emission limits and labelling requirements at the manufacturing stage.

VCA has been tasked by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTi) to carry out inspections at retailers and importers premises to identify items of equipment covered by this legislation that do not conform to the requirements of the Directive. Additionally, VCA carries out noise level testing on samples of equipment to check the accuracy of noise levels claimed and has the authority to take enforcement action under section 17 of the Regulations.

Application dates

The Directive was implemented into UK law by The Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for use Outdoors Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1701) made under the European Communities Act 1972.

From 3 July 2001 until 2 January 2002 manufacturers, or their authorised representatives based in the European Community, of equipment for use outdoors had the choice of complying with the Regulations or continuing to comply with existing national legislation.

From 3 January 2002 all equipment for use outdoors, within the scope of the Regulations, placed on the market or put into service in the UK must comply with the Regulations.

Failure to comply with the Regulations will mean that these products may be prohibited from being placed on the Community market, or withdrawn if already placed on the market after 3 January 2002.

Entry into force of the UK Regulations: 3 July 2001

Transitional arrangements: there was a transitional period from 3 July 2001 until 2 January 2002 during which time manufacturers had the option of complying with the new regime or the national legislation in force on 3 July 2000 in the member State in which the equipment is placed on the market.

Mandatory application of the UK Regulations: 3 January 2002

Coverage

The Regulations apply to 57 types of equipment for use outdoors ranging from construction machinery to lawnmowers which require noise emission (See list of equipment covered) measurements to be taken and to fix labels showing the "guaranteed" noise levels of each machine. In addition, the Regulations set noise limits for 22 of the 57 categories which are laid down in two stages. The Regulations only



cover equipment that is first placed on the market or put into service as an entire unit suitable for the intended use.

Excluded products

The Regulations do not apply specifically to:

1. Non-powered attachments that are separately placed on the market, except for hand-held concrete-breakers and picks and for hydraulic hammers.
2. All equipment primarily intended for the transport of goods or persons by road or rail or by air or on waterways.
3. Equipment specially designed and constructed for military and police purposes and for emergency services.

Second-hand equipment:

Second-hand equipment and equipment already in use within the Community is not covered by the Regulations. However, the Regulations apply to second-hand equipment used in any country or territory outside the Community when it is imported for the first time into the Community.

Further Information

For further information or advice, please contact the Noise Enforcement team on +44 (0)117 952 4222.