

9.0 Acoustics

9.1 General

The design and construction should address acoustic aspects of the work environment. The major design issues to be considered include:

- Workplaces should be designed to minimize the occupant's exposure to noise; noisy machines and activities should be remote or isolated from other work areas
- Noisy equipment should be acoustically enclosed where practicable
- Noisy work areas such as workshops should have acoustically absorbent ceilings to reduce the amount of noise other staff working nearby are exposed to
- Noise levels of equipment should be an integral part of equipment selection/purchasing procedures
- Consideration should be given to the impact of ultrasonic noise generation.

Specialist advice from a qualified Acoustic Engineer is recommended.

9.2 Recommended Provisions

The Engineering Services and the building components should be selected to achieve an acceptable noise level. Unless other requirements are stated in other parts of these Guidelines, the ambient sound levels should not exceed those stated by local regulatory authorities.

9.2.1 Recommended Design Sound Levels

ROOM/SPACE	Satisfactory dB*	Maximum dB*
CASUALTY AREAS	40	45
CORRIDORS AND LOBBIES	40	50
CONSULTING ROOM	40	45
DELIVERY SUITES	45	50
DENTAL CLINICS	40	45
ICU	40	45
KITCHENS	50	55
LABORATORIES	45	50
STAFF STATIONS	40	45
OFFICE AREAS	40	45
OPERATING THEATRES	40	45
PHARMACY	45	50
STERILISING AREAS IN OPERATING THEATRES	40	50
INPATIENT WARDS	35	40
WAITING ROOMS AND RECEPTION AREAS	40	50

* dB = Decibel