

“Noise Control at the Hop Festival”

By Paul Durkin LFOH



"Reproduced from the original painting by George Hawkins".



FAVERSHAM HOP FESTIVAL, PRESTON ST.
STAGE



Nobby 09.

Legislation

Licensing Act 2003 gives powers to Licensing Authorities / Local Authorities to grant licenses in respect of the sale / supply of alcohol and provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshments.

There are four licensing objectives:-

1. The prevention of crime and disorder;
2. Public safety;
3. The prevention of children from harm and
4. **The prevention of public nuisance (which includes noise)**

Legislation

Environmental Protection Act (EPA 1990):

Sections 79 & 80 give powers to Environmental Health Departments to respond to allegations of noise nuisances, i.e. a statutory nuisance. Section 82 has the provision for a private individual to take their own action.

Legislation

The Noise at Work Regulations, 1989

(NAWR) were applicable in 2006. These regulations sets three different action levels, which must be acted upon to reduce the risk of damaging hearing.

New, Control of Noise at Work Regulations , 2005

to protect workers came in to force for the music industry in April 2008. These latter regulations reduced the 1st & 2nd actions by 5dB(A). A noise exposure limit value and peak values were also introduced. (Note: a 3dB reduction would half the noise intensity, however to the human ear a 10dB drop would be a subjective halving of loudness).

Music Events Standard/Guidance

There are three main guidance documents relating the noise output are outdoor music events:

1. **Guide to Managing H&S at Exhibition & Events 2002 (The Red Book)**. This includes information based on the NAWR quoting maximum levels of background 80-85dB(A) – Peak of 96dB(peak) in special enclosures.
2. **Managing Large Events (Licensing Act 2003) a LACORS Guide (2005)**. This deals with the relevant licensing act (2003) and gives a case study based on the Glastonbury Festival. Conditions given were that the NAWR were compiled; the peak sound pressure level should not exceed 140dB; the equivalent continuous sound level not exceed 110dB and no-one allowed within 2m of any loud speaker with a rated output in excess of 1kW.

Music Events Standard/Guidance

3. **Noise Council's Code of Practice (1995) an Environmental Noise Control at Concerts (Pop code).** This addresses the environmental issues of noise from the large music events using high powered amplification in stadia, arenas and open air sites from the performance and sound check perspective only.

The Pop Code notes that research shows that levels below 95dB(A) will be unlikely to provide satisfactory entertainment for the audience. The Pop Code also provides guidance for setting the “music noise level” (MNL). It provides a guideline figure for both urban stadia and other urban including rural venues for 1-3 concert days per calendar year per venue of 75 and 65dB(A) respectively (1m from the façade of any noise sensitive premises).

The “Pop” Code Time for review?

TABLE 1

Concert days per calendar year, per venue	Venue Category	Guideline
1 to 3	Urban Stadia or Arenas	The MNL should not exceed 75dB(A) over a 15 minute period
1 to 3	Other Urban and Rural Venues	The MNL should not exceed 65dB(A) over a 15 minute period
4 to 12	All Venues	The MNL should not exceed the background noise level ¹ by more than 15dB(A) over a 15 minute period

