

**BRUDERER UK LTD** Cradock Road Luton Beds LU4 0JF - United Kingdom

Dear Customer

Due to our ongoing commitment to high standards, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 Bruderer UK conducted a meeting with the Health and Safety Executive at Bruderer UK HQ in Luton to review Safety at work and the responsibility as an employer to our employees, and to our customers.

Many factors were discussed, but the standout topic was noise at work levels.

Bruderer UK has the responsibility to inform our customers that the noise regulations require you take specific action at certain action values. This means any machinery that creates noise above the pre-determined industry levels should be fitted with an Acoustic Sound Booth Enclosure as a concerted action to reduce the noise exposure and ensure your duty of care to your workers.

Please take time to read the below extract from the Health & Safety Executive. It also lays out decibel level exposure limits. More info can also be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise>

We will be contacting our customers in the coming weeks to discuss our recommendations. In the meantime, please review our Acoustic Sound Booth Enclosures at <https://www.bruderer.co.uk/product/acoustic-enclosures-for-presses/>

Please do not hesitate in contacting us if you have any questions.

Best Regards

Bruderer UK Team



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## Employers' responsibilities - legal duties

- [What do the regulations require you to do?](#)
- [Noise levels](#)

### What do the regulations require you to do?

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (Noise Regulations 2005) require employers to prevent or reduce risks to health and safety from exposure to noise at work. Employees have duties under the Regulations too. The Regulations require you as an employer to:

- [Assess](#) the risks to your employees from noise at work;
- [Take action](#) to reduce the noise exposure that produces those risks;
- Make sure the [legal limits](#) on noise exposure are not exceeded;
- Provide your employees with [information, instruction and training](#);
- Carry out [health surveillance](#) where there is a risk to health.

The Regulations do not apply to:

### Noise levels

#### What are the action levels and limit values?

The Noise Regulations require you to take specific action at certain action values. These relate to:

- the levels of exposure to noise of your employees averaged over a working day or week; and
- the maximum noise (peak sound pressure) to which employees are exposed in a working day.

The values are:

- lower exposure action values:
  - daily or weekly exposure of 80 dB;
  - peak sound pressure of 135 dB;
- upper exposure action values:
  - daily or weekly exposure of 85 dB;
  - peak sound pressure of 137 dB.

The actions you need to take are described in the rest of the employers' web pages. The [flow chart](#) in Figure 1 will also help you decide what you need to do.

There are also levels of noise exposure which must not be exceeded. These are called exposure limit values:

- daily or weekly exposure of 87 dB;
- peak sound pressure of 140 dB.

## How do I reduce noise?

There are many ways of reducing noise and noise exposure - often a combination of methods works best. First think about how to remove the loud noise altogether. If that is not possible, do all you can to control the noise at source, consider redesigning the workplace and reorganising working patterns. Take measures to protect individual workers if you need to. Consider the following:

- Use a different, quieter process or quieter equipment, eg:
  - Can you do the work in some other quieter way?
  - Can you replace whatever is causing the noise with something that is less noisy?
  - Introduce a low-noise purchasing policy for machinery and equipment.
- Introduce engineering controls:
  - Avoid metal-on-metal impacts, eg line chutes with abrasion-resistant rubber, and reduce drop heights.
  - Vibrating machine panels can be a source of noise - add material to reduce vibration ('damping').
  - Isolate vibrating machinery or components from their surroundings, eg with antivibration mounts or flexible couplings.
  - Fit silencers to air exhausts and blowing nozzles.
- Modify the paths by which the noise travels through the air to the people exposed, eg:
  - **Erect enclosures around machines to reduce the amount of noise emitted into the workplace or environment.**
  - Use barriers and screens to block the direct path of sound.
  - Position noise sources further away from workers.
- Design and lay out the workplace for low noise emission, eg:
  - Use absorptive materials within the building to reduce reflected sound, eg open cell foam or mineral wool.
  - Keep noisy machinery and processes away from quieter areas.
  - Design the workflow to keep noisy machinery out of areas where people spend most of their time.
- Limit the time spent in noisy areas - every halving of the time spent in a noisy area will reduce noise exposure by 3 dB.

Proper and regular maintenance of machinery and equipment is essential as it will deteriorate with age and can become noisier. Listen out for changes in noise levels - it may be time to replace worn or faulty parts.