

# Sound Regulations in the United Kingdom

From the Live DMA Working Group “Music is not noise! – Sound regulations for live music scenes in Europe” that took place in February 2019.

## Inside the venue:

For workers inside the venue: There are legal limits on the levels of noise to which workers may be exposed. To comply with the exposure limits employers must ensure that their workers' noise exposure, reduced by an appropriate factor if they are using personal hearing protection, is not above:

- 87 decibels for daily or weekly personal noise exposure (LEP,d or LEP,w); and
- 140 decibels for peak sound pressure (LCpeak)

Unlike for workers, there is no specific legislation setting noise limits for the audience exposure to noise. However, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) strongly recommends that the A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level over the duration of the event (Event LAeq) in any part of the audience area should not exceed 107 dB, and the C-weighted peak sound pressure level should not exceed 140 dB.

## Outside the venue:

Concert days per calendar year, per venue	Venue Category	Guideline
1 to 3	Urban Stadia or Arenas	The Music Noise Level (MNL) should not exceed 75dB(A) over a 15 minute period
1 to 3	Other Urban or 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 by more than 15dB(A) over a 15 minute period

## Complementary measures:

Where practical, the audience should not be allowed within 3m of any loudspeaker. Under no circumstances should the audience and loudspeaker separation distance be less than 1m.

Where the Event LAeq is likely to exceed 96 dB, [organisers should] advise the audience of the risk to their hearing in advance, (eg either on tickets, advertising or notices at entry points.)

*Disclaimer: The information used in this document are drawn from the Live DMA Working Group on sound regulations that took place in February 2019. In spite of all the care devoted to the editing of this publication, the publisher cannot accept liability for any damage that is the result of any error in this publication.*