

By post and by email at mttam@epd.gov.hk

11 August 2023

Ms Alice TAM
Env Protection Offr(Assessment & Noise)31
Environmental Protection Department
26th floor, Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Dear Ms TAM

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Regarding the Draft Practice Note on
Minimising Noise from Construction Activities**

On behalf of the Institution, I am pleased to present to you our views and suggestions as set out in the enclosure for your consideration on the captioned subject.

The Institution welcomes the opportunity to work with the Government and offer our expertise and experience on the area of concern if and when it is needed.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Ir Peter SI
Director

AS/PS/SS

Enclosure

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Regarding the Draft Practice Note on
Minimising Noise from Construction Activities**

In response to the Environmental Protection Department’s (EPD) draft “Practice Note on Minimizing Noise from Construction Activities” (PN) prepared to facilitate the industry in applying practicable measures and deploying quieter construction methods and equipment in general construction works to minimise noise from construction activities, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) would like to offer our views for consideration of the EPD.

Clause	Draft PN	Suggested changes
Paragraph 13, 1st bullet point	<p>“ Detailed Construction Noise Impact Assessment (CNIA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Construction works programme and construction methodology; – PME list for the construction work; – <u>Construction noise impact assessment</u>; and – List of noise mitigation measures to be adopted.” 	<p>The “construction noise impact assessment” in third bullet should be specified as “<u>Quantitative construction noise impact assessment</u>”.</p>
Paragraph 14	<p>“The CNMP should be prepared and checked by <u>Certified Noise Modelling Professional as recognized by the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals Limited or equivalent</u> as meeting the recommendations given in this PN.”</p>	<p>The qualification of “equivalent” should be clearly defined in the PN.</p> <p>Currently there are only eighteen (18) Certified Noise Modelling Professionals, whereas ten (10) of them are serving environmental consulting firms, and the remaining eight (8) are employed by authority.</p>
Annex B, Section 1 (Noise Mitigation Measures) Clause (2)	<p>“The acoustic screen or enclosure shall be made of incombustible, sound insulating material with performance, greater than STC27 in sound insulation performance preferable, such that the noise level measured at the NSR do not exceed the limits as mentioned in this sub-clause.”</p>	<p>The recommended sound insulation performance (i.e. greater than STC27) should only be applied to noise (acoustic) panels/blankets, i.e. excluding the supporting frame and other accessories.</p>

	<p>“It shall be provided and installed such that no powered mechanical equipment can be seen from <u>the nearby noise sensitive receiver</u>.”</p> <p>“No gap, hole nor leakage shall be found in the entire screening part of acoustic enclosure, and all joints of baffles or panels shall be well designed to <u>prevent direct leakage of noise</u>.”</p>	<p>“It shall be provided and installed such that no powered mechanical equipment can be seen from <u>the nearby noise sensitive receiver under the latest Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP)</u>.”</p> <p>“No gap, hole nor leakage shall be found in the entire screening part of acoustic enclosure, and all joints of baffles or panels shall be well designed to <u>prevent direct leakage of noise under the normal windy condition (10 – 15 km/hour)</u>.”</p>
<p>Annex D, Section 2 (<i>Purpose-built Noise Enclosure and Barrier</i>)</p>	<p>“The noise enclosure should also be internally lined with sound absorbing materials such as <u>mineral wool</u>.”</p>	<p>“The noise enclosure should also be internally lined with sound absorbing materials such as <u>polyester fibre, foam or fiberglass</u>.”</p> <p>Mineral wool is not substantial for maintaining shape/structure, especially at the environment of a construction site.</p>