



Noise at Work Assessment Bolton

Background

Norville Group, a manufacturer of prescription safety lenses in Bolton, appointed Miller Goodall Ltd (MGL) to undertake an assessment of workplace noise exposure to determine if any employees exceeded the Noise Exposure Action Values defined in the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (CNWR). This assessment was undertaken to supplement the firm's ongoing risk assessment procedures in order to analyse the risk of excessive noise exposure to operatives on the shop floor and, where necessary, apply appropriate noise control measures.

Action Taken

The main shop floor included a number of machines utilised to cut, grind, abrade and polish glass material, with many operatives undertaking work at different machines and therefore experiencing a range of noise exposure levels. MGL tackled this assessment in two ways: firstly, several operatives with different primary tasks and locations within the facility were asked to fill out time sheets for a typical working day, detailing the tasks undertaken, machines used and time spent at each activity. Secondly, MGL spent several hours within the manufacturing facility, taking measurements of noise levels generated by the various work activities.



Using the activity records and measured noise levels, the daily noise exposure of each of the assessed operatives was calculated in terms of the $L_{ex,8hr}$ and compared to the Noise Exposure Action Values in CNWR. It was found that the noise exposure of the majority of operatives was below the Lower Exposure Action Value, indicating a low risk to health from noise exposure.

However, operatives at one work station were found to exceed the Lower Exposure Action Value for a typical working day, and as such CNWR requires that reasonably practicable measures are taken to reduce that exposure to levels below the Exposure Action Values.

Summary of Findings

It was found that the work station's close proximity to a dust extraction system was causing the excessive noise levels and by relocating this extraction unit away from the work station, noise levels reduced significantly. This simple solution resulted in reducing the operatives' noise exposure to satisfactory levels at minimal cost to the employer.

For more information about us, visit our website at www.millergoodall.co.uk. If you would like to discuss how we can help with your project, please contact Miller Goodall on 01204 596166 or email info@millergoodall.co.uk.