



## Noise Regulations fact sheet

# Regulation 11: Blasting operations

June 2021

## Purpose

This fact sheet provides guidance for users of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (Noise Regulations) in relation to airblast noise emitted from blasting operations.

The Noise Regulations set assigned (allowable) noise levels for noise received at various types of premises. However, the regulations create several special cases where noise emissions may not be required to meet these assigned levels.

One of the special cases is noise from blasting.

## How regulation 11 works

According to regulation 11, the assigned noise levels set in regulations 7 and 8 do not apply to noise emitted from blasting.

Regulation 11 sets specific airblast levels for blasting. These airblast levels apply to blasting carried out on any premises or public place. They do not address ground vibration from blasting.

Under regulation 11:

- 'airblast level' means a noise level resulting from blasting
- 'blaster' means the occupier of a premises or, in the case of blasting from a public place, the person who is causing or permitting the blasting
- 'sensitive site' means a building, or part of a building, on a noise-sensitive premises that is used for a noise-sensitive purpose; or any land on the premises that is within 30 metres of the building, e.g. a homestead on a rural premises and its curtilage
- ' $L_{Z_{peak}}$ ' means the peak sound level in decibels measured without using any frequency weighting.

Under regulation 2:

- 'blasting' means the use of explosives to fracture either
  - rock, coal and other minerals for later recovery
  - structural components or other items to facilitate removal from a site or for reuse.

## Daytime blasting: maximum level

For blasting carried out between 7am and 6pm on any day, the airblast level received on any other premises, for any blast, must not exceed either:

- 120 dB  $L_{Z_{peak}}$  when received at a sensitive site
- 125 dB  $L_{Z_{peak}}$  when received at a location that is not a sensitive site, or at any other type of premises.





## Daytime consecutive blasting (9 out of 10)

The airblast levels received on any other single premises for 9 out of 10 consecutive daytime blasts must not exceed either:

- 115 dB  $L_{Z_{peak}}$  when received at a sensitive site
- 120 dB  $L_{Z_{peak}}$  when received at a location that is not a sensitive site, or at any other type of premises.

## Blasting at other times

Airblast levels resulting from blasting on any premises or public place must not exceed 90 dB  $L_{Z_{peak}}$  at any other premises outside the periods between 7am and 6pm on any day.

The only exception to this is that explosives which have previously been placed and primed may be fired in accordance with regulation 8.28(4) of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995, in which case the levels must meet those given above for daytime blasting.

## When no person is present

The above airblast limits do not apply to an airblast level received at premises, or a part of premises, on which the blaster has reasonable grounds to believe that no person is present at the time of the blast.

## More information

For further information, please contact the Environmental Noise Branch at the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation via email ([info@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@dwer.wa.gov.au)) or phone (08 6364 7000).

## Legislation

This document is provided for guidance only. It should not be relied upon to address every aspect of the relevant legislation. Please refer to the Department of Justice, Western Australian Legislation [website](#) for copies of the relevant legislation.

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