

# Excessive Noise and Hearing Damage - Design to Avoid

## The Problem/Challenge

Noisy site operations which cannot be avoided by design omission or given a protective enclosure.

## The Risks

Permanent future hearing damage to operatives and others in proximity.

## The Solution

Avoidance of excessively noisy activities especially in confined reverberant spaces, in combination with the provision of the correct type of ear defenders where the work is necessary, and alternative procedure impossible. These works are usually associated with but not exclusively breaking out concrete or screeds or cutting steelwork, etc. Automated remote controlled breakers may increasingly become available or sound insulated cabs.

## The Benefits

Minimal future hearing problems to all. Morale in the workforce is improved with better working conditions and audio-environment. Creates a more efficient and therefore better economic environment for all.

## Key Points

Review the procedures and equipment selection, noise production and ear protection issues with contractor as early as possible.

