

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
PRACTICE NOTE FOR PROFESSIONAL PERSONS**

**Use of Quiet Construction Equipment for
Road Opening Works during Non-Sociable Hours**

Introduction

Many road breaking operations, especially those on heavily trafficked roads, have to be performed at night to avoid traffic congestion during the day. Road breaking works using conventional breakers are particularly disturbing and are the subject of many noise complaints, particularly with respect to sleep disturbance. The adoption of quieter construction methods and equipment can produce worthwhile reduction in the nuisance caused by road breaking operations.

Mandatory use of Quiet Equipment

2. Under the Technical Memorandum on "Noise from Construction Work other than Percussive Piling" issued under the Noise Control Ordinance, a Construction Noise Permit for unavoidable construction work during restricted hours may be granted even though the noise could not meet the limit normally required for a permit. The Technical Memorandum empowers the Authority to require the employment of the quietest practicable construction methods in these situations.
3. The "Guidelines on the application of some commonly used quiet equipment and techniques for road pavement works", attached at Annex 1, are intended to clarify those situations where the use of quiet equipment would be mandatory for unavoidable road pavement works carried out during the restricted hours.
4. As from 1 April 1996, the Authority will impose permit conditions requiring the use of the quiet equipment/techniques, as indicated in the guidelines in Annex 1, to all relevant Construction Noise Permits issued for road works.
5. Project planners should take into consideration the above requirements in their works planning process.

Enquiries

6. All noise permit applications and enquiries can be made to the Local Control Offices of the Environmental Protection Department. Addresses and enquiry telephone numbers of the Local Control Offices are listed in Annex 2.

(Stuart B. Reed)

Director of Environmental Protection

Environmental Protection Department
28/F Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai

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Ref. : EP 81/C2/28 Annex I

Guidelines on the application of some commonly used quiet equipment and techniques for road pavement works

Construction Work	Quiet equipment/techniques (see Note 1)
1. Concrete structure demolition above road surface e.g. removal of central barrier	* Hydraulic concrete crusher (see Note 2)
2. Trench opening on carriageways - Asphalt surface - Concrete surface	* Hand-held hydraulic/electric breaker with acoustic baffles/enclosures (see Note 3) * Saw and lift method with acoustic baffles as necessary (see Notes 2 and 4)
3. Road pavement for reconstruction - Asphalt re-surfacing - Pavement demolition	* Road miller with noise reduction treatments to engine/exhaust and acoustic baffles as necessary (see Note 2) * Saw and lift method or road ripper with acoustic baffles as necessary (see Notes 2 and 4)

Notes

1. These quiet equipment/techniques will apply whenever the noise from essential or urgent works is assessed to exceed the relevant Acceptable Noise Level during restricted hours (7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on any day or any time on general holidays). Alternative construction methods are sometimes acceptable to suit particular technical constraints, such as those described in Notes 2 and 4.
2. Hand-held hydraulic/electric breakers may be used for concrete removal within 300mm around manholes or channels, or at other positions where there is access difficulty or where the use of the quiet method is otherwise impracticable. Under such circumstances, acoustic baffles/enclosures or equivalent measures shall be adopted for noise mitigation (see Note 3).
3. (i) An example of the materials suitable for acoustic baffles or enclosure is minimum 50mm thick sound absorbing lining and 10mm thick plywood (or 1mm thick steel) backing so that no part of the equipment is visible from any nearby noise sensitive receiver.
(ii) Except under exceptional circumstances, no breakers shall be operated from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on any day, and additionally from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on general holidays.
4. Saw and lift method may be considered not practicable in situations where it would damage existing underground utilities embedded beneath the road surface.

Address and Enquiry Phone No. of Local Control Offices

Local Control Office (Territory East)

for Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong and Sai Kung Districts

Environmental Protection Department
Local Control Office (Territory East)
5/F, Nam Fung Commercial Centre
19 Lam Lok Street
Kowloon Bay, Kowloon
Enquiry Tel. No. : 2707 7552

Local Control Office (Territory North)

for North, Tai Po and Sha Tin Districts

Environmental Protection Department
Local Control Office (Territory North)
G/F, On Wo House
Tai Wo Estate
Tai Po, N.T.
Enquiry Tel. No. : 2634 3805

Local Control Office (Territory South)

for Hong Kong Island (i.e. Central & Western, Wan Chai,
Eastern & Southern Districts) and Islands Districts

Environmental Protection Department
Local Control Office (Territory South)
3/F, Chinachem Exchange Square
1 Hoi Wan Street
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Enquiry Tel. No. : 2516 1733

Local Control Office (Territory West)

for Yuen Long and Tuen Mun Districts

Environmental Protection Department
Local Control Office (Territory West)
7/F, Chinachem Tsuen Wan Plaza
455 Castle Peak Road
Tsuen Wan, N.T.
Enquiry Tel. No. : 2411 9635

Local Control Office (Urban East)

for Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong and Kowloon City Districts

Environmental Protection Department
Local Control Office (Urban East)
Suite UG01-02 and Unit 101
Block 2, Hoi Fai Commercial Centre
222-224 Sai Lau Kok Road
Tsuen Wan, N.T.
Enquiry Tel. No. : 2402 5252

Local Control Office (Urban West)

for Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing Districts

Environmental Protection Department
Local Control Office (Urban West)
8/F, Tsuen Wan Government Offices
38 Sai Lau Kok Road
Tsuen Wan, N.T.
Enquiry Tel. No. : 2417 6110

Addendum to the ProPECC Practice Note PN 1/96

Original	Amendments
<p>Para 6</p> <p>“All applications and enquiries can be made to the Local Control Offices of the Environmental Protection Department. Addresses and enquiry telephone numbers of the Local Control Offices are listed in Annex 2.”</p>	<p>“All applications and enquiries can be made to the Regional Offices of the Environmental Protection Department. Addresses and enquiry telephone numbers of the Regional Offices are listed in Annex 2.”</p>

Original	Amendments
<p>Page 4, Annex 2</p> <p>Local Control Office (Territory East) Enquiry Tel. No.: 2707 7552</p> <p>Local Control Office (Territory North) G/F., On Wo House, Tai Wo Estate, Tai Po, N.T. Enquiry Tel. No.: 2634 3805</p> <p>Local Control Office (Territory South) 3/F., Chinachem Exchange Square, Enquiry Tel. No.: 2516 1733</p> <p>Local Control Office (Territory West) 455 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T. Enquiry Tel. No.: 2411 9635</p> <p>Local Control Office (Urban East) Suite UG01-02 and Unit 101, Enquiry Tel. No.: 2402 5252</p> <p>Local Control Office (Urban West) Enquiry Tel. No.: 2417 6110</p>	<p>Regional Office (East) for <u>Kwun Tong</u>, <u>Wong Tai Sin</u>, <u>Sai Kung</u>, <u>Mongkok</u>, <u>Yau Tsim</u> and <u>Kowloon City</u> Districts 5/F., Nan Fung Commercial Centre, 19 Lam Lok Street, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon. Enquiry Tel. No.: 2755 5518</p> <p>Regional Office (North) for <u>Yuen Long</u>, <u>Shatin</u>, <u>Tai Po</u> and <u>North</u> Districts 10/F., Sha Tin Government Offices, 1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Sha Tin, N.T. Enquiry Tel. No.: 2158 5757</p> <p>Regional Office (South) for <u>Hong Kong Island</u> and <u>Islands</u> Districts 2/F., Chinachem Exchange Square, 1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. Enquiry Tel. No.: 2516 1718</p> <p>Regional Office (West) for <u>Tuen Mun</u>, <u>Tsuen Wan</u>, <u>Kwai Tsing</u> and <u>Sham Shui Po</u> Districts 8/F., Tsuen Wan Government Offices, 38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T. Enquiry Tel. No.: 2417 6116</p>