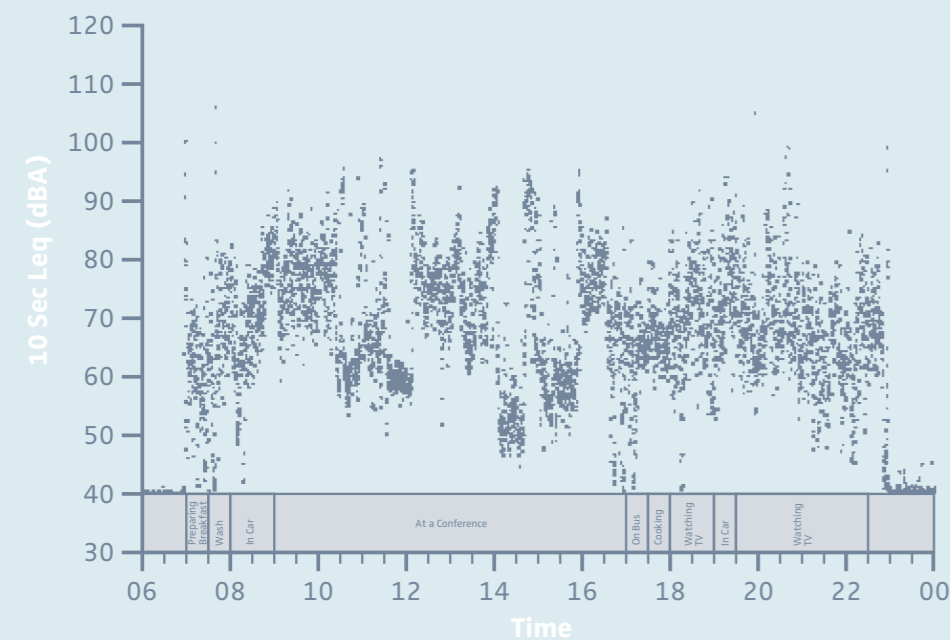


Your Day Is Noisier than You Think...

Sound levels on a typical day



Data from "Evaluation of typical sound environments." Gatehouse, 1998

Just How Noisy Is It?

You are exposed to high noise levels throughout your waking hours. Your car ride to work, the conference you attend, watching television and just having fun with the kids—all these activities involve noise levels that can exceed recommended limits for extended exposure. Lots of different sounds can put your hearing health at risk, and not all of them are the kind of sudden loud noises that "hurt your ears." Sustained exposure to ordinary sounds, such as music, traffic, and even the sound of a busy office, can also harm your hearing in the long term. The graph above shows just how noisy a typical day can be.

It All Adds Up

The effect of high noise levels builds up over time. This means that even though the noise of a bustling office environment doesn't *sound* loud, it can take a toll on your hearing if you are exposed to it for hours on end, day after day. And the longer you are exposed, the more harm this kind of noise can do. Fortunately, there are a number of ways you can protect your hearing from excessive, every-day noise.

Play It Safe —Learn More about the SafetyZone



Visit www.senncom.com/safetyzone for in-depth information about how Sennheiser Communications is working to protect hearing.



Stay Informed

To help keep you informed about the latest developments in hearing protection and safety, we've set up a special SafetyZone section on our website. You'll find up-to-date information about products, technologies, hearing and occupational safety, as well as relevant legislation. Visit www.senncom.com/safetyzone to stay informed.

Sennheiser Communications

Sennheiser Communications is one of the world's leading producers of advanced headsets for professional or home use. Combining years of expertise in hearing-instrument and hearing-safety technology from the William Demant Holding Companies with legendary Sennheiser sound, headsets from Sennheiser Communications deliver an advanced feature set, unsurpassed hearing protection, superb sound quality and great design. Sennheiser Communications offers a full range of headsets for contact centers, as well as mobile and stationary solutions for the office and home.

For more information about Sennheiser Communications, please visit www.senncom.com.



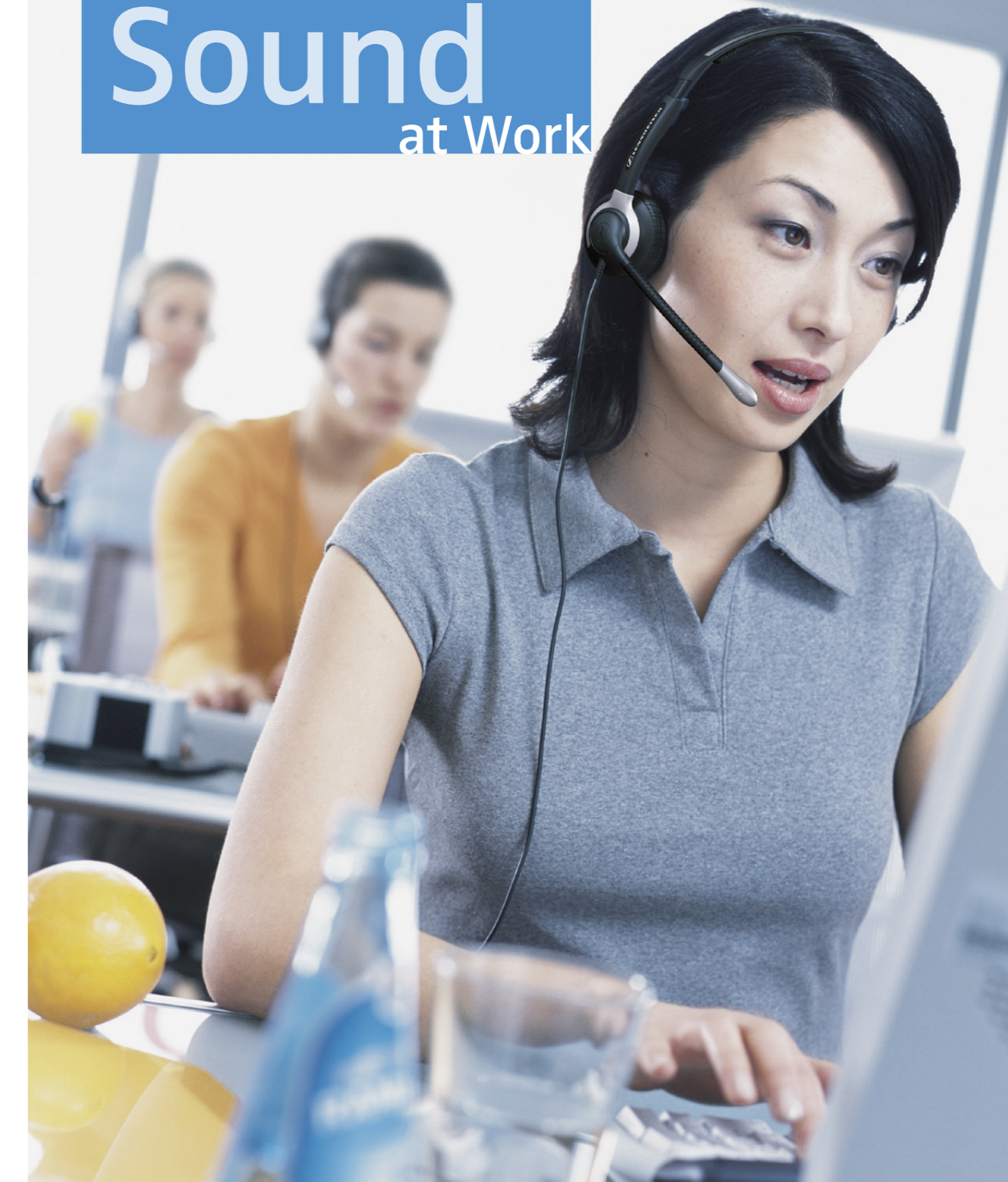
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New Legislation Calls for Action

Increased focus on hearing health draws attention to the contact-center industry



Are You Prepared?

To help protect workers from exposure to health risks posed by excessive noise, the European Union has adopted a new directive, commonly known as the Noise at Work Directive.

Effective as of February 15th, 2006, the new directive sets limits on permissible noise levels and covers both sustained noise and acoustic bursts.

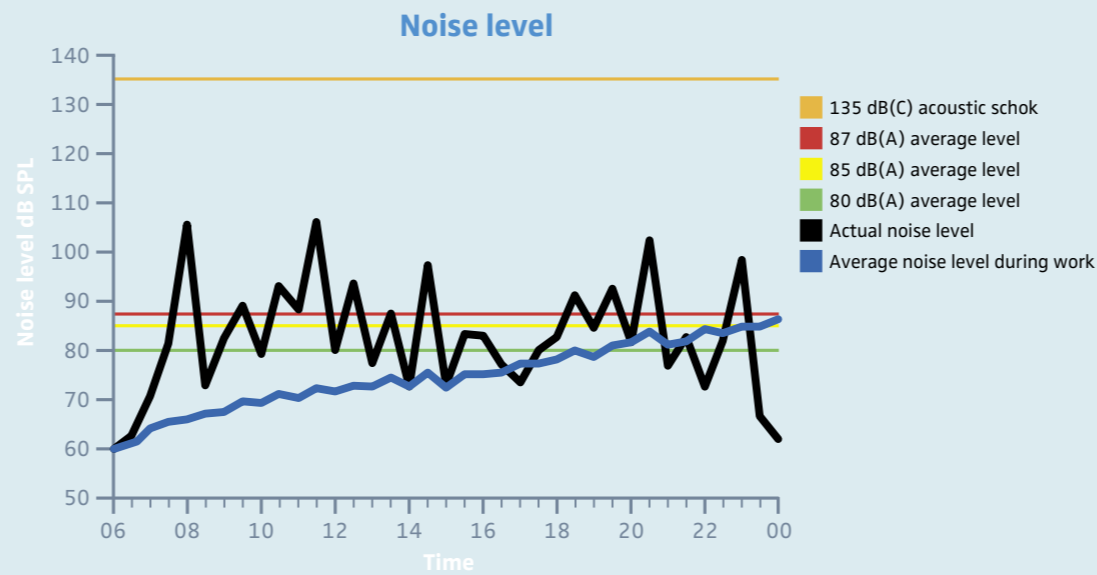
A Focus on Workplace Noise

A growing awareness of the importance of protecting hearing is leading companies, governments and other concerned parties around the world to look more closely at noise in the workplace. The new focus on noise at work has been accompanied by an increase in litigation, with a growing number of companies facing lawsuits and heavy fines arising from health problems caused by excessive noise. The EU's Noise at Work Directive is one example of how governments are stepping in to help prevent damage to hearing caused by noise in the workplace.

We Have Solutions

This brochure explains the basic issues involved in workplace noise and the new limits set by the EU. This information can help you determine how these issues affect your business, and how our solutions can help you meet the new requirements for hearing safety at the workplace.

What's All the Noise About?



The European Union's new Noise at Work Directive sets limits for two types of noise: sustained noise and acoustic bursts. It is crucial that companies understand what these types of noise are and how to protect workers from them.

Sustained Noise and Acoustic Bursts

Sustained noise is what most of us think of as ordinary background noise. Although an office or other workplace may not sound particularly loud, this noise builds up over the course of a day and can lead to a range of hearing problems. The main focus of the EU's Noise at Work Directive is to limit and reduce the average daily levels of sustained background noise people are exposed to at work. Acoustic bursts are very loud, short-duration high-energy noises that occasionally passes through telephone systems. They can lead to what is known as an acoustic shock, which is a temporary or permanent disturbance to hearing. These sounds can occur with disturbing frequency in contact centers, and are the focus of much of the hearing-related litigation facing this industry.

Limits and Consequences

As the graph above shows, the acceptable range for sustained noise ends at 80dB(A), with acoustic bursts permissible up to 135dB(A). The caution range extends up to 85dB(A), with acoustic bursts up to 137dB(C). The danger zone extends to 87dB(A) for sustained noise and 140dB(C) for acoustic bursts. Noise levels higher than these are prohibited altogether. Under the new EU directive, companies are required to make individual hearing protection available to employees where daily noise exposure exceeds the acceptable range. If this level exceeds the caution range, the company must require employees to use hearing protection, permit employees to have their hearing checked by a medical professional, and implement a program of measures for reducing noise exposure. If workplace noise levels exceed the danger zone, the company must act immediately to lower the levels.

Act Now to Protect Hearing

With new limits in place for workplace noise, companies now have clear targets to meet for hearing-related workplace safety. Read on to see what you can do to ensure compliance with the EU directive and protect the hearing health of your employees.

We Have Solutions!

We Know Sound

We bring technologies and insight from our two parent companies, Sennheiser K.G. (sound and acoustics) and William Demant Holding (advanced hearing instrument technology), to the contact-center business.

Acoustic Burst Protection with ActiveGard™

Sennheiser Communications provides ActiveGard™ protection against acoustic bursts in every headset we sell. ActiveGard™ does more than just cutting off sounds that are too loud. It incorporates advanced algorithms to ensure maximum protection without compromising speech intelligibility. And in close consultation with telecommunications specialists worldwide, we have chosen to set the limit for transient peaks to 105dB, significantly lower than the limits imposed by the new EU directive.

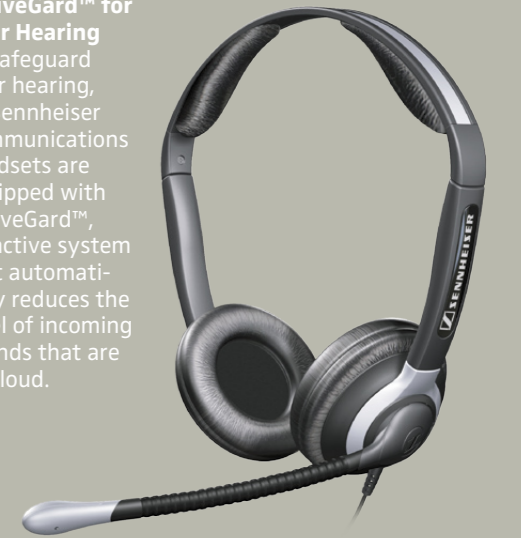
Reduced Noise Exposure with the UI 740 EU

Our new UI 740 EU active interface box provides an advanced solution to high levels of sustained noise, bringing any telecom headset from Sennheiser Communications into full compliance with the EU's new Noise at Work Directive.

Don't Guess—Test

With the world a noisier place than you might think, it's a good idea to find out what the noise situation is like at your office. At Sennheiser Communications, we say "don't guess—test", and we're happy to help you analyze noise levels at your facilities. If you think you might have a problem with noise, contact us. We'll conduct an analysis, identify the problem, recommend a solution and help you implement it, bringing noise levels down to an acceptable—and legal—level.

ActiveGard™ for Your Hearing
To safeguard your hearing, all Sennheiser Communications headsets are equipped with ActiveGard™, an active system that automatically reduces the level of incoming sounds that are too loud.



Hearing Is Believing—the ActiveGard™ Test Box
Hear for yourself what a difference ActiveGard™ technology makes. Contact your Sennheiser Communications representative to request a demonstration of advanced ActiveGard™ technology.

Noise Suppression with the UI 740 EU
The new UI 740 EU amplifier is a special version of the UI 740. The unit limits sustained noise levels to 85dB(A) and allows the user to lower the limit well below the 80dB(A) level.

