

NOISE LEVELS <sup>i</sup> CORRESPONDING TO NECs FOR NEW DWELLINGS $L_{Aeq, T}^{dB}$					
		NOISE EXPOSURE CATEGORY (NEC)			
NOISE SOURCE	TIME	A	B	C	D
Road traffic <sup>ii</sup>	07.00 – 23.00	<55	55 - 63	63 - 72	>72
	23.00 – 07.00 <sup>vi</sup>	<45	45 - 57	57 - 66	>66
Rail traffic <sup>iii</sup>	07.00 – 23.00	<55	55 – 66	66 – 74	>74
	23.00 – 07.00 <sup>vi</sup>	<45	45 – 59	59 – 66	>66
Air traffic <sup>iv</sup>	07.00 – 23.00	<57	57 – 66	66 – 72	>72
	23.00 – 07.00 <sup>vi</sup>	<48	48 – 57	57 – 66	>66
Mixed sources <sup>v</sup>	07.00 – 23.00	<55	55 – 63	63 – 72	>72
	23.00 – 07.00 <sup>vi</sup>	<45	45 – 57	57 – 66	>66

### Notes

- i) Noise levels (expressed in  $L_{Aeq}$ ) should be representative of typical conditions.
- ii) Road traffic noise should be interpreted to mean noise from public highways only.
- iii) Railway noise should be interpreted to mean noise from operational railway lines only.
- iv) For daytime aircraft, noise values accord with the contour values which relate to levels measured 1.2m above open ground. For the same amount of noise energy (intensity), contour values can be up to 2 dB higher than those of other sources because of ground reflection effects. For small aerodromes planning authorities should not rely solely on  $L_{eq}$  where this is based upon less than 30 movements a day. The NEC's should not normally be used to assess helicopter noise; particularly where this is generated by stand alone heliports.
- v) 'Mixed sources' refers to any combination of road traffic, railway or air traffic noise. The "mixed source" values are based on the lowest numerical values of the single source limits in the table and should only be used where no individual traffic noise source is dominant. To check if any individual noise source is dominant for the purposes of this assessment, the noise level from the individual sources should be determined and then combined by decibel addition (remembering first to subtract 2dB from any aircraft noise contour values). If the level of any one source then lies within 2dB of the calculated combined value, that source should be taken as the dominant one and the site assessed against the appropriate NEC for that source, rather than using the "mixed source" NEC's. If the contribution of individual sources to overall noise level cannot be determined by measurement or calculation, then the overall measures level should be used and the site assessed against the NEC's for "mixed sources".
- vi) Night-time noise levels (23.00 – 07.00): sites where individual noise events regularly exceed 82 dB  $L_{Amax}$  (Slow time weighting) more than twice in any hour during this period should be treated as being in NEC C, regardless of the  $L_{Aeq,8hr}$  (except where the  $L_{Aeq,8hr}$  already puts the site in NEC D).