

Business told to make it quieter

An initiative has been launched to encourage manufacturers to make quieter machinery and businesses to use it, in a bid to reduce noise-related ill health in the workplace. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) says 170,000 people in the UK suffer deafness, tinnitus or other ear conditions as a result of exposure to excessive noise at work. It says its 'Buy Quiet' campaign is about getting everyone with an interest - manufacturers, suppliers, employers, unions, insurers and consultants - looking at what they can do to reduce the risk. HSE says it is particularly keen to foster closer relationships with manufacturers to see how noise reductions can be made at source. HSE noise and vibration inspector Sarah Haynes said: "Noise-related ill health can have a devastating impact on workers and their families, and Buy Quiet is about exploring ideas and sharing information about what can be done to reduce the risks." She added: "HSE will continue to engage with industry to raise awareness of potential benefits, both health and commercial, of low noise machinery production."

- [HSE news release](#) and [noise webpages](#).