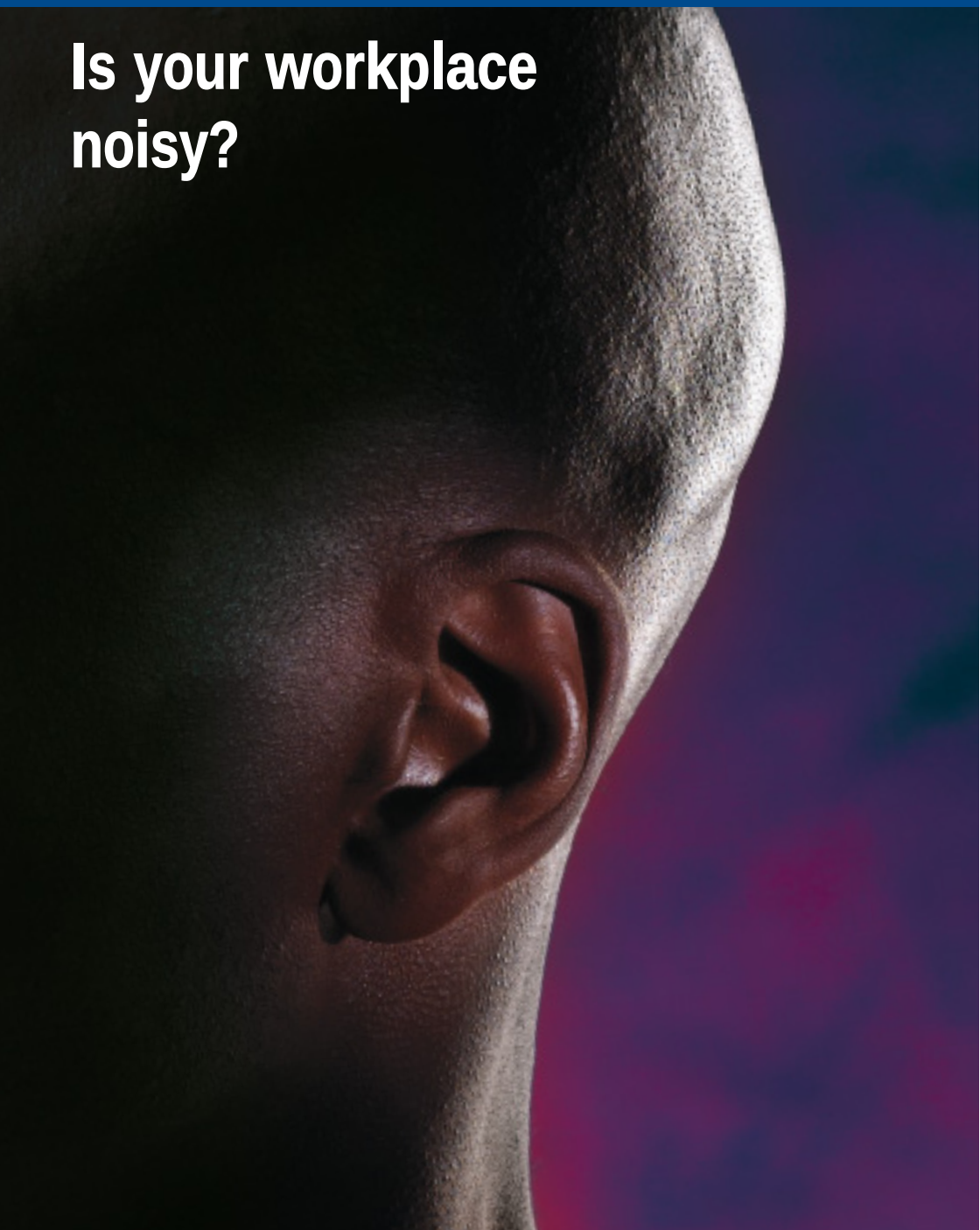


Is your workplace noisy?



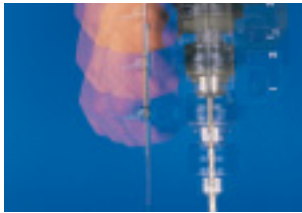
If your workplace is noisy, you may need to know about the new Control of Noise at Work Regulations. They are in effect from 6 April 2006 and will help protect workers from permanent hearing damage.

You will probably need to take some action if any of the following apply to you or your workers:

- You're surrounded by intrusive noise for most of the working day. Examples of intrusive noise from everyday life are a busy street and a vacuum cleaner.
- You have to raise your voice to be heard by someone just two metres away for at least part of the day.
- You use noisy powered tools or machinery for more than half an hour a day.
- You work in a noisy industry such as construction, road repair, engineering or manufacturing.
- Your work causes impacts such as hammering, drop forging, pneumatic impact tools etc.
- You work with explosive sources such as cartridge-operated tools or detonators, or guns.

Examples where noise shouldn't be a problem:

- busy offices;
- shops;
- travelling in cars on motorways.



Key points

- Hearing loss caused by work is preventable but once your hearing has gone, it won't come back.
- Some 170 000 people in Britain suffer deafness, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), or other ear conditions from harmful levels of noise at work.
- The new Regulations introduce a reduction in the acceptable noise levels at work.
- There are many practical, cost-effective ways of protecting yourself and your workers.
- HSE continues to work in partnership with employers and other organisations to find practical solutions to noise risks at work.
- Business benefits include lower sickness absence, lower staff turnover, improved productivity and enhanced reputation. To find out about businesses which testify to the benefits of sensible health and safety, visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/businessbenefits>.





More information

- A free leaflet: *Noise at work: Guidance for employers on the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005* INDG362(rev1) HSE Books 2005 (single copy free or priced packs of 10 ISBN 0 7176 6165 2)
- A free pocket card: *Protect your hearing or lose it!* INDG363(rev1) HSE Books 2005 (single copy free or priced packs of 25 ISBN 0 7176 6166 0)

Both are available from HSE Books on 01787 881165, or from www.hse.gov.uk/noise

For more information about health and safety phone HSE's Infoline:

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