

Thameslink Programme

Health & Safety – Good Practice 030

Improving Noise Safety-Making Noise Visible

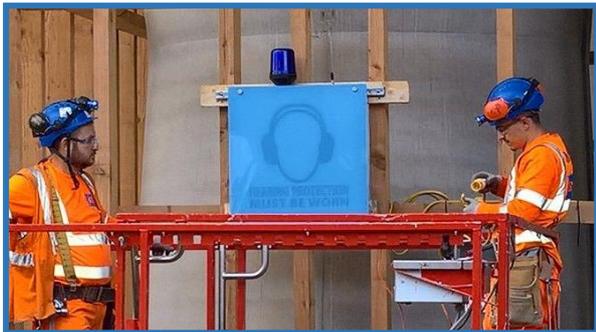
Overview/Description Redevelopment

The Costain team working at London Bridge made observations that people working in noisy environments did not always recognise the need to wear hearing protection especially in situations where they were not directly involved in the activity.

The usual noise signs that were in use throughout the site were stagnant and stationary.

The Costain Safety, Health & Environment team worked in collaboration with [Pulsar Instruments](#) to produce an innovative and visual sign to raise noise awareness and implement effective noise control procedures.

The sign was introduced as a visual prompt to highlight noise levels exceeding 80dba.



Noise sign that illuminates with blue flashing light when noise levels require hearing protection

Key Elements of Improvement

Prototypes were trialled on site and developments were made over a 6 month period.

The final design is big, bright and comes with a flashing blue beacon, in the familiar style of emergency services.

The smart illuminating signs are positioned in pre-determined planned zones to alert staff to elevated noise levels and also gather data on noise levels within the designated areas.

Benefits

- A prompt for staff to wear their personal hearing protection, when involved in a noisy activity or when in the vicinity of a noisy activity (activates when noise levels rise above 80dba).
- A data logging and downloading facility to monitor noise levels over both the day and night shifts to assess what noise levels were being created over time and location and which operatives were being exposed to noise the most.
- Monitoring if noise exceeds the specifications set for noise in the Local Authority Section 61 agreement and also if complaints were received about noise levels coming from the site.