

Good Practice Guide for Noise Mitigation - For Foodshops

- All apparatus, equipment and systems in the premises should be maintained in good working condition such that it does not result in noise nuisance to nearby residential or commercial premises.
- Operators should install silencers or suitable noise attenuators in aircon compressors or exhaust systems, where required, to minimise noise and vibration generated.
- Noise-generating activities relating to the operations of the premises (e.g. activities that will result in clanging/banging of utensils, washing of crockery, delivery of supplies to premises, dragging of chairs) should be kept minimal after 10.30 pm daily, so as to not cause a noise nuisance to nearby residential or commercial premises.
- The back door of the foodshops adjoining residential developments should be kept closed at all times. Operators should ensure that their employees and customers do not carry out activities (e.g. smoking and conversing loudly) along the backlane which would disturb the residents.
- Operators should affix rubber caps on the legs of tables and chairs to minimise noise resulting from any movement/dragging of the furniture.
- Any music or sound-generating devices should be installed in the indoor area of the premises. Such devices are not allowed in the Outdoor Refreshment Areas (ORAs) unless special clearance is obtained from the relevant agency. Under specific circumstances where such devices are allowed and installed in the ORA, it should be situated at a distance away from the nearest residential and commercial premises.
- The volume of any music or sound-generating devices should be kept at a level which does not cause a noise nuisance to nearby residential or commercial premises.
- Where any music or sound-generating devices are installed in foodshops which are not enclosed (e.g. coffeeshop/eating houses and non-air conditioned restaurants etc.), as well as in ORAs (where allowed on exceptional basis), such device(s) should be turned to mute or switched off after 10.30 pm.
- Where speakers are allowed and installed, they should be directional, directed away from residential or commercial premises and situated away from the corners of the foodshop.
- Operators should display signage at conspicuous locations in the premises and ORA to inform customers to refrain from conversing loudly and to keep their volumes down after 10.30 pm. Operators should ensure that employees and customers do not speak loudly or make too much noise after 10.30 pm.

Note: The recommended practices listed in this document are not exhaustive. Owners/Occupiers are recommended to consult independent experts/consultants for advice on noise control measures specifically suitable for his/her situation and premises, in compliance with the conditions/requirements stipulated by the relevant licensing and regulatory authority/authorities. Where warranted, the relevant authorities may also require the owner/occupier of the premises to engage a noise consultant for mitigation of noise.