Southern Log Yard Noise Management Plan

Eastland Port

This plan sets out a long term comittment by Eastland Port to manage noise from day to day operations of the log yard as well as noise relating to constrcution works.

The objective of the management plan is to set out in a consise and simple language a practical plan to manage noise emissions from the activities related to the site.

There are no individual resource consent conditions that relate to the management or monitoring of noise from the Southern Log Yard. Therefore noise obligations are governed the definition of Essential Port Activities by Chapter 24 of the *GDC Combined Regional Land and District Plan*, and by the applicable rules set out in *Chapter 11 – Noise and Vibration* and *Chapter 20 – Port Management Zones*. If required noise from Essential Port Activities shall be measured and assessed in accordance with *NZS 6801:2008 Measurement of Environmental Sound* and NZS 6802:2008 *Acoustic - Environmental Noise.*

Sound will be generally be generated from the following sources:

- log handling including log loader operation, and
- movement of vehicles onto and off the site, as
    - heavy vehicle movements (delivery and removal of cargo)
    - light vehicle movements (staff vehicles)
- short term, daytime noise assoicated with construction activities

This plan sets out how these sources will be managed.

1. Noise Management Methods

The following are the noise control methods which shall be undertaken.

1.1 Surface maintenance

There shall be maintenance as required to ensure that access ways and all other parts of the site where vehicles or plant are operated is free of potholes to avoid impact sounds from plant and trucks passing over irregularities. The purpose is to ensure a surface which does not result in any unreasonable impact sounds.

1.2 Noise Liaison Officer

Management shall ensure there is a suitable designated noise liaison person appointed at all times. This person shall be directly responsible for ensuring this noise management plan and requirements are implemented on site at all times in the control, assessment, measurement and community consultations of all noise issues.

The Noise Liaison Officer shall ensure that all persons on site carry out any activities in a common sense noise-sensitive manner, including staff and contractors who shall be advised by the Noise Liaison Officer about a need to minimise noise and about the hazards of unreasonable noise.

The Noise Liaison Officer will be responsible for liaising with the Council for noise complaints, and shall be responsible for actign on information on any noise complaints recived as soon as practicable after receiving such information.

1.3 Equipment, machinery and vehicle operations

The following methods will be adopted by operators on-site to limit noise:

- Only use required power and size of equipment
- Fit engine exhausts with effective silencers
- Operate equipment in a quiet and efficient manner
- Do not leave equipment idling unnecessarily
- Regularly inspect and maintain equipment
- Use quiet reversing alarms/methods

When possible operators shall ensure that:

- All equipment, machinery and vehicles are operated and maintained in a manner that takes into account noise emissions and excessive noise. This includes placing items down and not dropping them. Do not drag logs or materials across the ground.
- Excessive engine revving, excessive use of horns or other audible devices, and the use of un-silenced equipment are examples of non-conformance with the obligation to limit the emissions of unreasonable noise.
- Effective exhaust silencers are to be fitted to machinery operating on the yard at all times.
- Where possible log stacks will be oriented as far as practical to reduce noise emission in the direction of the nearest residence(s).
- On site vehicle paths and yards are to be maintained as far as possible free of potholes to avoid unnecessary bumps and impact sounds caused by vehicles passing over surface irregularities. The sealing of the yard over time is supported as an effective noise control measure.
- Vehicles operating on the site are to be restricted to slow speeds. The need for slow speeds shall be set out on signage to be erected at the entrance to the site. The Noise Liaison Officer shall identify vehicles deemed to be speeding and ensure the driver is provided with appropriate feedback. Speed restrictions on site shall be managed by appropriate signage to show users there is a speed limit of 20 km/h.

- Audible warning devices (such as reversing alarms) fitted to trucks or loaders operating on the site are to be silenced and/or reduced so long as this is compatible with health & safety polices for site, hence where possible no audible warning devices shall be used. Such devices shall be replaced with sensor cameras and/or visual warning lights (unless this is not possible due to health & safety polices regulations for the site. Safety should not be compromised)
- Excessive engine revving, excessive use of horns or other audible devices, and the use of un-silenced equipment are examples of non-conformance with the obligation to limit the emission of unreasonable noise.
- Vehicles and equipment are to be regularly inspected for any exhaust defects. Any defects are to be repaired as soon as practicable (any damaged pipes, mufflers, etc or equipment that is assessed as being potentially noisy).

1.3 Machinery and Vehicle Operating Rules

The following operator requirements will be incorporated into standard operating procedures to be used on site:

- Do not accelerate vehicles unnecessarily
- Do not use horns unnecessarily
- Minimise speed and engine revs
- Engines off when stationary for periods >2 minutes

Vehicles

- Ensure trucks are maintained to minimise exhaust smoke and odour, and are fitted with effective exhaust silencers and secure tailgates and loads.
- All light, medium, and heavy vehicles shall meet vehicle exhaust standards required for a current Certificate of Fitness or Warrant of Fitness.
- Keep site tracks well maintained and avoid steep gradients.

Reversing alarms (Vehicles and machinery)

- Broadband alarms rather than single-frequency ‘beep’.
- Alarm level to be low relative to the background noise level.
- Where possible, audible warning devices are to be replaced with sensor cameras and/or visual warning lights.

Maintenance

- Any defects will be repaired, this will include any damaged pipes, mufflers, etc or equipment that is assessed as being potentially noisy.

1.4 Construction Noise & Vibration Management

The primary effects of construction noise relate to annoyance and disturbance of people. The primary effect of construction vibration relates to structural damage of dwellings however these effects will not arise owing to the buffer distances to any buildings from the Southern log yard.

Responding to, and mitigating, the primary effect often alleviates the secondary (annoyance) effects, and communications and prior warning of any vibration-causing activities can mitigate the effects on residents and internal property.

The predominant noise generating activities during construction are:

- Excavation and fill
- Compacting base course
- Excavators close to boundaries

Mitigation of construction noise and vibration effects is to be provided by:

- Limit hours of operation – hours of operation are generally limited to 6:30 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday, and 7:30 am to 6 pm, Saturdays as outlined in *Chapter 20 – Port Management Zones*.
- Compliance with noise & vibration limits specified within consent conditions.
- Prior consultation with affected neighbours – the following consultation is recommended:
    - Receivers within 100 metres of the construction area. Written notification and a project description shall be provided to raise awareness of the project, its expected activities and duration in the vicinity.
    - Receivers within 50 metres of the construction area. Individual written notification shall be provided and opportunity made available for discussions on a case-by-case basis, if requested by the occupants/owners.

1.5 Review of Plan

This plan should be reviewed annually to include and take account of consideration of public consultation procedures, possible new noise management methods, and any other related procedures which can employed to ensure noise remains reasonable at all times.