ALLAWAY ACOUSTICS
LIMITED

## ACOUSTIC TERMINOLOGY

DECIBEL (dB) - The Decibel is a logarithmic unit used to express ratios of quantities such as sound pressure level or sound power. The logarithmic nature of the unit means that decibel values cannot be added or subtracted in the usual way.

dBA or LA - The A weighted scale is used to take account of the fact that the human ear is more sensitive to sounds at high frequencies than sounds at low frequencies. "A" weighted sound pressure level (sound level) measurements correspond roughly to the subjective impression of loudness of the average listener.

LAEQ - The LAEQ index is used as a method of averaging temporally or spatially varying sound levels. At a given position, it may be defined as the notional sound level which contains the same amount of acoustical energy as the actual (time varying) sound level over the same measurement period. The LAEQ is gaining acceptance for many types of noise assessment, and is now referred to within BS4142 (used to assess the likelihood of justifiable environmental noise complaints), and also within the Noise at Work Regulations 1989.

LAMAX - The LAMAX is the maximum sound pressure level (sound level) recorded during any given measurement period.

LA10 - The LA10 is the sound level that is exceeded for 10% of the measurement period and is commonly used to describe road traffic noise, since it has been found to correlate reasonably well with complaint thresholds.

LA90 - The LA90 is the sound level that is exceeded for 90% of the measurements period, and is generally considered to describe the background noise, since it inherently excludes the sounds of transient events.