

6. There are four main statistical indices in use in the UK:

L_{A90} : The sound level (in dBA) exceeded for 90% of the time. This unit gives an indication of the sound level during the quieter periods of time in any given sample. It is used to describe the "background noise level" of an area.

L_{AeqT} : The equivalent continuous sound level over a period of time, T, this unit may be described as "the notional steady noise level that would provide, over a period, the same energy as the varying noise in question". In other words, the energy average level. This unit is now used to measure a wide variety of different types of noise of an industrial or commercial nature, as well as road traffic, aircraft and trains.

L_{A10} : The sound level (in dBA) exceeded for 10% of the time. This level gives an indication of the sound level during the noisier periods of time in any given sample. It has been used over many years to measure and assess road traffic noise.

L_{AMAX} : The maximum level of sound, i.e. the peak level of sound measured in any given period. This unit is used to measure and assess transient noises, i.e. gun shots, individual vehicles, etc.

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