

CIBSE RECOMMENDED NOISE RATINGS FOR INTERNAL AREAS

Situation	NR Value
Concert halls, opera halls, studios for sound reproduction, live theatres (>500 seats).	20
Bedrooms in private homes, live theatres (<500 seats), cathedrals and large churches, television studios, large conference and lecture rooms (>50 people).	25
Living rooms in private homes, board rooms, top management offices, conference and lecture rooms (20-50 people), multi-purpose halls, churches (medium and small), libraries, bedrooms in hotels, etc., banqueting rooms, operating theatres, cinemas, hospital private rooms, large courtrooms.	30
Public rooms in hotels, etc., ballrooms, hospital open wards, middle management and small offices, small conference and lecture rooms (<20 people), school classrooms, small courtrooms, museums, libraries, banking halls, small restaurants, cocktail bars, quality shops.	35
Toilets and washrooms, drawing offices, reception areas (offices), halls, corridors, lobbies in hotels, etc., laboratories, recreation rooms, post offices, large restaurants, bars and night clubs, department stores, shops, gymnasias.	40
Kitchens in hotels, hospitals, etc., laundry rooms, computer rooms, accounting machine rooms, cafeteria, canteens, supermarkets, swimming pools, covered garages in hotels, offices, etc., bowling alleys, landscaped offices.	45

NR50 and above:

NR50 will generally be regarded as very noisy by sedentary workers but most of the classifications listed under NR45 could just accept NR50. Higher noise levels than NR50 will be justified in certain manufacturing areas; such cases must be judged on their own merits.

Notes:

1. The ratings listed above will give general guidance for total services noise but limited adjustment of certain of these criteria may be appropriate in some applications.
2. The intrusion of high external noise levels may, if continuous during occupation, permit relaxation of the standards but services noise should be not less than 5 dB below the minimum intruding noise in any octave band to avoid adding a significant new noise source to the area.
3. Where more than one noise source is present it is the aggregate noise which should meet the criterion.
4. NR is approximately equal to dB(A) value - 6.

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