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Re: Quarter 4 - 2016: East Guyong Quarry noise and blast monitoring

1 Introduction

EMM Consulting Pty Ltd (EMM) has been commissioned by Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd (NSW) (Hanson) to complete quarterly noise monitoring for the East Guyong Quarry, as required by the site's approved Noise Management Plan. The quarry is located approximately 22 km southeast of Orange, NSW.

The following material was referenced as part of this assessment:

- Environment Protection Authority (EPA), *Industrial Noise Policy (INP) 2000*;
- R. W. Corkery & Co Pty Limited (RWC), *Noise Management Plan for the East Guyong Quarry (NMP) 2013*;
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I), *East Guyong Quarry Project Modification (06_0193 MOD 1) approval (PA) 2012*; and
- Australian and New Zealand Environment Council (ANZEC) 1990, *Technical basis for guidelines to minimise annoyance due to blasting overpressure and ground vibration*.

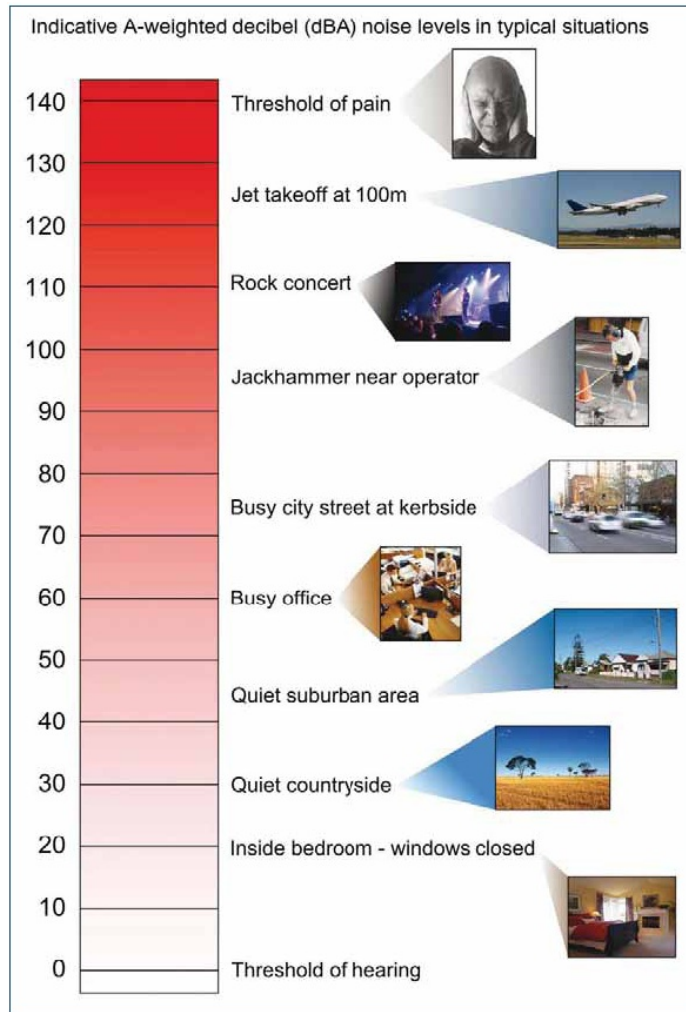
Analysis of data from three blast events that occurred on 13 October, 15 and 29 November 2016 has also been included in this report.

1.1 Technical terms

Several technical terms are discussed in this report. These are explained in Appendix A. It is also useful to have an appreciation of decibels, the unit of noise measurement. Table 1 provides an indication as to what an average person perceives about changes in noise levels. Examples of common noise levels are provided in Figure 1.

Table 1 Perceived change in noise

Change in level (dB)	Perceived change in noise
3	just perceptible
5	noticeable difference
10	twice (or half) as loud
15	large change
20	four times (or quarter) as loud



Source: NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011).

Figure 1 Common noise levels

2 Methodology

2.1 Site operations

At the time of the attended noise monitoring on Thursday 29 November 2016, the quarry's activities comprised of the following:

- extraction of basalt using standard drill, load and haul techniques;
- processing of extracted basalt and stockpiling of material;
- transportation of quarry products; and
- blasting

Material crushing and screening currently occurs on site from Monday to Thursday. This is an operational decision by the quarry and aids in the planning for maintenance and repairs. The quarry's approved hours of operation are:

- Monday to Friday (non-daylight savings) from 6 am to 6 pm;
- Monday to Friday (daylight savings) from 6 am to 8 pm; and
- Saturdays from 7 am to 1 pm.

2.2 Noise monitoring

Operator-attended 15 minute noise measurements were conducted when the quarry was in full operation at each location shown in Figure 2. The operator quantified the contribution of each significant quarry noise source where possible. Noise monitoring was conducted in general accordance with the INP and Australian Standard AS 1055.1-1997 *Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise - General Procedures*.

A Brüel & Kjær 2250 Type 1 sound analyser (s/n 2759405) was used for the noise monitoring. The sound analyser was calibrated before and after the completion of the surveys using a Brüel & Kjær Type 4230 calibrator (s/n 1276091). The instruments were within a current NATA calibration period at the time of the noise monitoring and relevant certificates are provided in Appendix B.

2.3 Assessment locations

The noise monitoring included four 15 minute operator-attended noise measurements during the daytime period on 29 November 2016 to quantify noise emissions from the quarry at on-site locations N1 and N2. Noise monitoring was not conducted prior to 7 am as the quarry was not in operation.

Locations N1 and N2 are located near the south-east and north-east boundaries of the site respectively. Location N1 is approximately 500 m from "Wheatfields", the closest residence situated south-east of the quarry. Location N2 is approximately 150 m from "Hartley Cottage", the closest residence situated north-east of the quarry. These monitoring locations were selected so as to not inconvenience residents and are consistent with the approved Noise Management Plan for the East Guyong Quarry (RWC, 2013). Monitoring at these locations, rather than at the residences, also provides a better opportunity to quantify site related noise since they are closer to the operations. Location N2 represented the potentially worst affected residence due to the south westerly source to receiver winds present at the time of the measurements.

3 Criteria

3.1 Operational noise

Condition 3(5) of PA 06_0193 states that the noise assessment criteria are 35 dB $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$, at any residence for all assessment periods. The exception is the "Fairview" residence which has an 36 dB $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$, daytime criterion. In accordance with the PA 06_0193, "Noise generated by the project is to be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements, and exemptions (including certain meteorological conditions), of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy."

As per Condition 3(5) of PA_0193, to demonstrate compliance at residential locations, the noise monitoring results are to be assessed against the following (intermediate) noise criteria for monitoring locations N1 and N2:

- N1 - 43 dB, $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$; and
- N2 - 50 dB, $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$.

It is stated in the NMP that by satisfying criteria at these intermediate locations, quarry noise at neighbouring residences would also satisfy residential criteria. This assumes the presence of soil and product stockpiles, bunding and intervening topography between the site and surrounding residences, which provide some degree of attenuation of site noise.

Further to the above, section 11.1.3 of the INP identifies that a development is deemed to be in non-compliance if the monitored noise levels from the development are more than 2 dB above the statutory limit.

3.2 Low frequency noise criteria

Section 11.2.3 of the NMP states that modification factors in Section 4 of the INP (EPA 2000) should be applied to the measured noise levels where applicable.

Section 4 of the INP (EPA 2000) provides guidelines for applying 'modifying factor' adjustments to account for low frequency noise emissions. The INP requires that where there is a difference of 15 dB or more between site 'C-weighted' and site 'A-weighted' noise emission levels, a correction factor of 5 dB is added to the measured site noise level before comparison to the relevant noise criterion. Hence, where possible throughout each survey the operator has estimated the difference between site 'C-weighted' and site 'A-weighted' noise emission levels by matching audible sounds with the response of the analyser ($L_{Ceq} - L_{Aeq}$ noise metric). Where relevant, this guideline has been applied to this assessment as presented in Section 4.

It is noted that the NSW DP&E and the NSW EPA are currently completing a comprehensive study of low frequency noise (LFN) as part of the INP review. Additionally, it is acknowledged that assessment of LFN in rural areas is difficult and that current assessment processes make it difficult to enforce LFN criteria as part of consent conditions. The draft Industrial Noise Guideline (ING) will replace the INP and is the first official publication that clearly indicates a change from the current INP approach to LFN assessment.

3.3 Blast monitoring

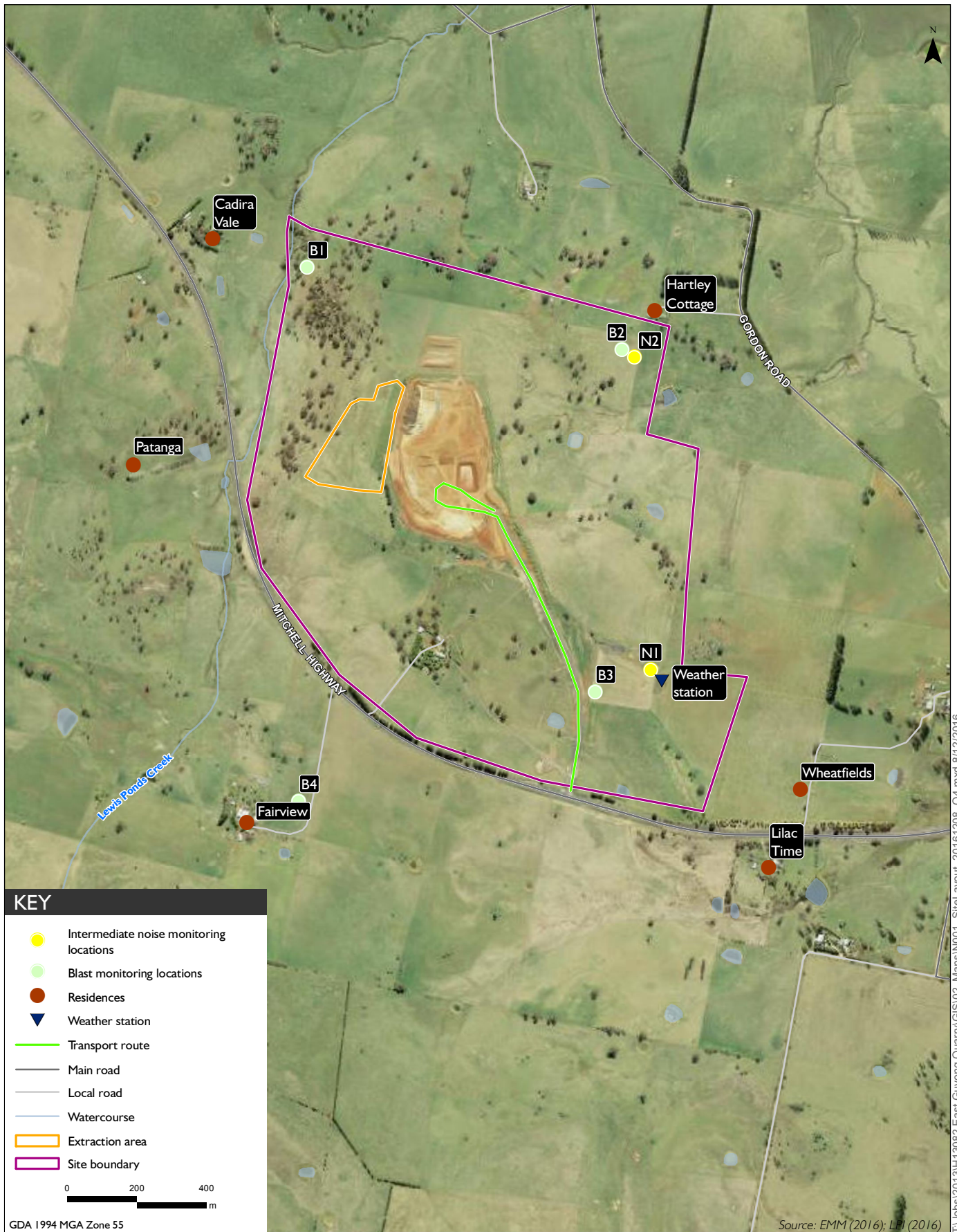
Blast overpressure and vibration monitoring is managed by Hanson for all blast events. Blast overpressure and ground vibration are monitored at four locations within or at the site's boundary. The exception is B4, located south of the Mitchell Highway near the Fairview property. Monitoring locations

are situated closer to blasting locations than the residential structures (refer to Figure 2), and therefore overpressure and vibration levels would likely be lower at the actual residential dwellings than those measured.

Blast emissions criteria for the quarry apply at any residence on privately-owned land surrounding the site and are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 **Blast overpressure and vibration criteria**

Location	Airblast overpressure criteria (dB (Linear Peak))	Ground vibration criteria (mm/s (Peak velocity))	Allowable exceedance
Any privately-owned residence surrounding the site.	115 120	5 10	5% of the total number of blasts in a 12 month period 0%



Site location and monitoring plan

East Guyong Quarry

Quarter 4 – 2016: East Guyong Quarry noise and blast monitoring

Figure 2

4 Results

4.1 Noise monitoring results

Noise monitoring results for locations N1 and N2 are presented in Table 3. The on-site weather station was faulty at the time of the noise monitoring and therefore, no wind speed or wind direction data is available from this station. The meteorological data for the monitoring period was sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Orange Airport AWS (Station ID 063303), located approximately 12 km west north west of the site, to determine applicability of noise criteria in accordance with the EPL. This weather station was used as it was the closest AWS to site. Wind speed and direction observations are presented in Table 3. It was identified that noise limits were not applicable during all measurements at all monitoring locations due to the presence of winds greater than 3 m/s.

Low frequency noise was identified, based on the INP's approach, for all measurements at locations N1 and N2 and a penalty of 5 dB was added to the respective quarry $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$ contributions in accordance with Chapter 4 of the INP (EPA 2000). It is noted that the crushing plant was in operation for the duration of all measurements.

The measured quarry $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$ contribution during the second measurement at location N2 was estimated to be 46 dB. Low frequency noise was identified in field, in accordance with INP methodology, and subsequently a 5 dB modifying factor was applied to the $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$ quarry contribution resulting in an adjusted site noise level of $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$ 51 dB. This is 1 dB above the noise criteria at location N2, however, it is noted that noise limits were inapplicable during the attended noise surveys due to the presence of wind speeds greater than 3 m/s. Notwithstanding, it is within 2 dB of the noise criteria for this location and is therefore within an acceptable measurement tolerance as described in Section 11.1.3 of the INP (EPA 2000). It is noted that during the measurement taken at N2, winds were in the direction of source to receiver (ie south westerly winds), and would have enhanced site noise levels at this location.

All other quarry contributions measured at locations N1 and N2 satisfied the relevant noise criteria as per the NMP. It is therefore expected that relevant criteria for surrounding residential receivers would also be satisfied.

Based on the preceding information, no non-compliances were measured at the assessment locations identified in Condition 3(5) of PA_0193.

Table 3 **Attended noise monitoring summary – 29 November 2016**

Location	Start time	Attended noise monitoring results dB					Criteria dB	Meteorological conditions ¹		Criteria Applies? (Y/N)	Exceedance	Comments
		Total measured			Site contribution			Wind speed (m/s)	Wind direction ³			
		L _{Aeq}	L _{Amax}	L _{A90}	Est. L _{C-A}	L _{Aeq}						
N1	08:55	38	63	33	≥15	31 ² (36+5)	43	5.8	260	N	N/A	Site audible (predominantly crushing plant and engine revs). Other sources include frequent bird noise and occasional road traffic noise from Mitchell Highway.
N2	09:18	45	64	40	≥15	48 ² (43+5)	50	5.8	260	N	N/A	Site audible (predominantly crushing plant and engine revs). Other sources included consistent insects, frequent bird noise, and occasional wind gusts.
N2	09:34	47	62	42	≥15	51 ² (46+5)	50	5.6	234	N	N/A	Site audible (predominantly crushing plant and engine revs). Other sources included consistent insects and occasional bird noise and wind gusts.
N1	10:00	47	71	36	≥15	39 ² (34+5)	43	5.8	222	N	N/A	Site audible (predominantly crushing plant, engine revs and reversing alarms). Other sources included frequent bird noise, wind gusts and road traffic noise from the Mitchell Highway. A plane was audible for approximately three minutes.

- Notes:
1. Meteorological data was obtained from the BoM Orange Airport AWS (Station ID 063303) at a height of 10 m above ground.
 2. Modifying factor for low frequency noise applicable in accordance with section 4 of the INP (difference of 15 decibels or more between site 'C-weighted' and site 'A-weighted' noise levels).
 3. Wind direction reported in degrees from north (0°)

4.2 Blast overpressure and ground vibration

Three blast events occurred at the quarry since the last quarterly monitoring in September 2016. The blast overpressure and vibration monitoring results are presented in Table 4, and show the relevant criteria are satisfied at all monitoring locations (refer to Figure 2).

Table 4 **Blasting and vibration monitoring results**

Date	Monitoring location	Airblast overpressure level (dB(Linear Peak))		Ground vibration - Peak particle velocity (mm/s)	
		Measured	Criteria	Measured	Criteria
13/10/16	B1	87	115	4.46	5
	B2	112	115	1.33	5
	B3	89	115	1.57	5
	B4	114	115	0.94	5
15/11/16	B1	104	115	2.68	5
	B2	109	115	0.61	5
	B3	104	115	0.70	5
	B4 ¹	-	115	-	5
29/11/16	B1	112	115	4.27	5
	B2	114	115	1.47	5
	B3	109	115	1.41	5
	B4	111	115	1.17	5

Notes: 1. There was no trigger for this blasting event.

5 Conclusion

EMM has completed a noise and blasting assessment of East Guyong Quarry operations at monitoring locations around the site on 29 November 2016 as required by the site's approved NMP.

The results demonstrate that the received site noise levels during most measurements satisfy the relevant noise criteria as per the PA_0193 and in accordance with the NMP for the East Guyong Quarry.

The exception was the second measurement at location N2. This was measured to be 1 dB above the noise criteria for this location after the application of the INP low frequency noise penalty; however noise limits were inapplicable during the attended noise survey due to the presence of wind speeds greater than 3 m/s. Notwithstanding, this is within 2 dB of the noise criteria and is therefore within an acceptable measurement tolerance as described in Section 11.1.3 of the INP (EPA 2000). It is noted that during the measurement taken at N2, winds were in the direction of source to receiver (ie south westerly winds), and would have enhanced site noise levels at this location.

Therefore, it is concluded that noise levels from quarry operations did not result in non-compliances at any assessment locations as per Condition 3(5) of PA_0193.

Blast overpressure and ground vibration monitoring results satisfied the relevant criteria at all monitoring locations for the three blast events relevant to Quarter 4, 2016.

Yours sincerely,



Lucas Adamson
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Review: NI (8/12/16)

Appendix A

Glossary of acoustic terms

Table A1 **Glossary of acoustic terms**

Term	Description
dB	Noise is measured in units called decibels (dB).
A-weighting	There are several scales for describing noise, the most common being the 'A-weighted' scale. This is an adjustment made to sound-level measurement to approximate the response of the human ear.
C-weighting	This is an adjustment made to sound-level measurements which takes account of low-frequency components of noise within the audibility range of humans.
L_{90}	Commonly referred to as the background noise level. The noise level exceeded 90% of the time.
L_{eq}	The energy average noise from a source. This is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level over a given period. The $L_{Aeq(15-min)}$ descriptor refers to an L_{Aeq} noise level measured over a 15 minute period.
L_{max}	The maximum root mean squared sound pressure level received during a measuring interval.
Day period	Monday – Saturday: 7 am to 6 pm, on Sundays and Public Holidays: 8 am to 6 pm.
Evening period	Monday – Saturday: 6 pm to 10 pm, on Sundays and Public Holidays: 6 pm to 10 pm.
Night period	Monday – Saturday: 10 pm to 7 am, on Sundays and Public Holidays: 10 pm to 8 am.

Appendix B

Calibration certificates

CERTIFICATE OF CALIBRATION

Certificate No: CAU1600070

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CALIBRATION OF:

Sound Level Meter:	Brüel & Kjær	2250	No: 2759405
Microphone:	Brüel & Kjær	4189	No: 2888134
Preamplifier:	Brüel & Kjær	ZC-0032	No: 16037
Supplied Calibrator:	Brüel & Kjær	4230	No: 1276091
Software version:	BZ7222 Version 3.5.3	Pattern Approval:	Pending
Instruction manual:	BE1712-18	Identification:	N/A

CUSTOMER:

EMM Consulting
Level 5, 21 Bolton Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

CALIBRATION CONDITIONS:

Preconditioning: 4 hours at 23 °C
Environment conditions: *see actual values in Environmental conditions sections*

SPECIFICATIONS:

The Sound Level Meter has been calibrated in accordance with the requirements as specified in IEC61672-3:2006 class 1. Procedures from IEC 61672-3:2006 were used to perform the periodic tests.

PROCEDURE:

The measurements have been performed with the assistance of Brüel & Kjær Sound Level Meter Calibration System B&K 3630 with application software type 7763 (version 5.1 - DB: 5.10) and test procedure 2250-4189.

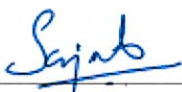
RESULTS:

	Initial calibration		Calibration prior to repair/adjustment
X	Calibration without repair/adjustment		Calibration after repair/adjustment

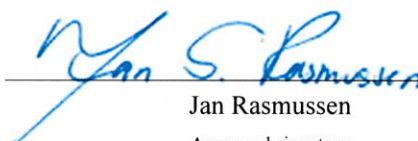
The reported expanded uncertainty is based on the standard uncertainty multiplied by a coverage factor $k = 2$ providing a level of confidence of approximately 95 %. The uncertainty evaluation has been carried out in accordance with EA-4/02 from elements originating from the standards, calibration method, effect of environmental conditions and any short time contribution from the device under calibration.

Date of Calibration: 03/02/2016

Certificate issued: 03/02/2016



Sajeeb Tharayil
Calibration Technician



Jan Rasmussen
Approved signatory

CERTIFICATE OF CALIBRATION

No.: CAU1600071

CALIBRATION OF:

Calibrator: Brüel & Kjær 4230 No: 1276091
Identification: Sound Level Calibrator
IEC Class: 2

CUSTOMER:

EMM Consulting
Level 5
21 Bolton Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

CALIBRATION CONDITIONS:

Preconditioning: 4 hours at 23 °C
Environment conditions: Air temperature: 24.3 °C
Air pressure: 100.1 kPa
Relative Humidity: 56.3 %RH

SPECIFICATIONS:

The acoustic calibrator has been calibrated in accordance with the requirements as specified in IEC60942.

PROCEDURE:

The measurements have been performed with the assistance of Brüel & Kjær acoustic calibrator calibration application software Type 7794 using calibration procedure 4230 Complete

RESULTS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Calibration | <input type="checkbox"/> Calibration before repair/adjustment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recalibration without repair/adjustment | <input type="checkbox"/> Calibration after repair/adjustment |

The reported expanded uncertainty is based on the standard uncertainty multiplied by a coverage factor $k = 2$, providing a level of confidence of approximately 95%. The uncertainty evaluation has been carried out in accordance with EA-4/02 from elements originating from the standards, calibration method, effect of environmental conditions and any short time contribution from the calibrator under calibration.

Date of Calibration: 03/02/2016

Certificate issued: 03/02/2016


Jan Rasmussen
Approved Signatory