

We have carried out the noise assessment based on the 2013 MSC 020 standard as this was the applicable standard at the time of installation in 2024. The calculation is based on the airconditioning unit with the highest sound power level and nearest distance to the assessment position which is 8m away. Photo included at end showing assessment position.

STEP	INSTRUCTIONS	INSTALLER NOTES	RESULTS /
1.	From manufacturer's data, obtain the A-weighted sound power level of the heat pump. See '<u>Note 1: Sound power level</u>'. The highest sound power level specified should be used (the power in "low noise mode" should not be used). <i>Example: Manufacturer's data states the sound power level of the heat pump is 55 dB(A).</i>	STEP 1 RESULT = 65	
2.	Use '<u>Note 2: Sound pressure level</u>' and '<u>Note 3: Determination of directivity</u>' below to establish the directivity 'Q' of the heat pump noise. <i>Example: The heat pump is to be installed on the ground and against a single wall hence the directivity (Q) of the heat pump noise is Q4.</i>	STEP 2 RESULT = Q2	
3.	Measure the distance from the heat pump to the assessment position in metres. <i>Example: Distance between heat pump and assessment position is 4 metres.</i>	STEP 3 RESULT = 8m	
4.	Use table in '<u>Note 4: dB distance reduction</u>' below to obtain a dB reduction. <i>Example: 4metres @ Q4 = -17 dB.</i>	STEP 4 RESULT = -26	
5.	Establish whether there is a solid barrier between the heat pump and the assessment position using '<u>Note 5: Barriers between the heat pump and the assessment position</u>' and note any dB reduction. <i>Example: There is a brick wall between the heat pump and the assessment position. Moving less than 25cm enables the assessment position to be seen. dB reduction = -5 dB.</i>	STEP 5 RESULT = No Barrier	
6.	Calculate the sound pressure level (see '<u>Note 2: Sound pressure level</u>') from the heat pump at the assessment position using the following calculation: (STEP 1) + (STEP 4) + (STEP 5) <i>Example (55) + (-17) + (-5)=55 – 17 – 5 =33 dB(A) Lp</i>	STEP 6 RESULT = 65 - 26 = 39	

7.	Background noise level. For the purposes of the MCS Planning Standard for air source heat pumps the background noise level is assumed to be 40 dB(A) Lp. For information see <u>'Note 6: MCS Planning Standard for air source heat pumps background noise level'</u>. <i>Example: Background noise level is 40 dB(A).</i>	STEP 7 RESULT = 40 dB(A)
8.	Determine the difference between STEP 7 background noise level and the heat pump noise level using the following calculation: (STEP 7) – (STEP 6) <i>Example: 40 dB(A) (background) – 33 dB(A) (heat pump) = 7dB(A).</i>	STEP 8 RESULT = 40 - 39 = 1
9.	Using the table in <u>'Note 7: Decibel correction'</u> obtain an adjustment figure and then add this to whichever is the higher dB figure from <u>STEP 6</u> and <u>STEP 7</u>. Round this number up to the nearest whole number. <i>Example: Adjustment figure is 0.8 dB and the higher figure is 40 dB(A).</i> <i>40 + 0.8 = 40.8 dB(A).</i> <i>Rounded up to 41 dB(A)</i> <i>Final result at this assessment position is 41 dB(A).</i>	FINAL RESULT= 40 + 2.5 = 42.5
10.	Is the FINAL RESULT in STEP 9 equal to or lower than the permitted development noise limit of 42.0 dB(A)? If <u>YES</u> - the air source heat pump will comply with the permitted development noise limit for this assessment position and may be permitted development (subject to compliance with other permitted development limitations/conditions and parts of this standard). NOTE - <u>Other assessment positions may also need to be tested.</u> If <u>NO</u> – the air source heat pump will not be permitted development. This installation may still go ahead if planning permission is granted by the local planning authority. <i>Example: 41 dB(A) is equal to or lower than 42.0</i>	Final result is equal to or lower than 42.0 dB(A) YES / NO (delete as appropriate)

	$dB(A)$.	
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Note 1: Sound power level (STEP 1)

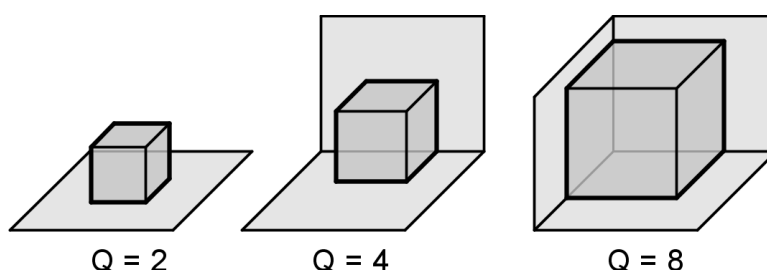
Sound power is the **total** acoustical energy emitted by a sound source, and is an absolute value. It is **not** affected by the environment or the location of the listener.

Note 2: Sound pressure level (STEP 2)

Sound pressure is what we hear. It is a pressure disturbance at a specific point in the atmosphere whose intensity is influenced not only by the sound power of the source, but also by the surroundings and the distance from the source to the point at which the sound is heard.

Note 3: Determination of 'directivity' (STEP 2)

The sound pressure level increases with the number of reflecting surfaces. Use the illustrations below to establish the directivity 'Q' for the installation. A reflective surface is any surface (including the ground) within 1 metre of the air source heat pump.



The following examples may be used as a guide:

- Q2 = an air source heat pump with one reflecting surface (i.e. the ground or a single wall if mounted on a wall off the ground).
- Q4 = an air source heat pump with two reflecting surfaces (i.e. ground mounted and against a wall or mounted off ground level against two walls)
- Q8 = an air source heat pump with three reflecting surfaces (i.e. ground mounted and against two walls or mounted off ground level between three walls).
- **NOTE – an air source heat pump with more than three reflective surfaces (for example those within small lightwells) will not meet the MCS planning standards.**

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Image below shows distances for clarity

The two closets windows with red crosses are not habitable rooms (bathroom and hallway) therefore the assessment position is the bedroom window which is 8m away from the nearest air conditioning unit

