



Pocket Herbs & Produce Pty Ltd 67 Howards Road, Burringbar

(Lot 3 on DP1191595)

OPERATIONAL NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN V2

21 November 2018

Greenhouse Fans:

Aim:

To control noise from fan operation during the day/night period.

Performance Indicator:

Noise generated by fan operation complies with the requirements of the Noise Policy for Industry, produced by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (Intrusive Criteria LAeq, 15 minute background level plus 5).

Noise impacts are to be assessed at the reasonably most-affected point on or within the residential property boundary or, if that is more than 30 meters from the residence, at the reasonably most affected point within 30 meters of the residence, but not closer than 3 meters to a reflective surface and at a height of between 1.2–1.5 meters above ground level.

Note: The background noise levels to be measured are those that are present at the time of the noise assessment and without the fans operating. If the measured background level is less than 30 dB(A), then the rating background level is considered to be 30 dB(A).

Purpose:

The purpose of these fans is to maintain minimum airflow and not control temperature or humidity, the VSD has been set and does not get modified due to temperature/humidity changes. The VSD (fan speed controller) cannot be changed externally.

Tasks / Actions:

The fans to be controlled as listed below:

Greenhouse 1 – HAF Fans and Fan Related Equipment

Fixed HAF Fans Greenhouse 1 - Main Area

Description - 15 HAF Fans Controlled by VSD Fan Controller and AutoGrow.
Operation - Speed 55%: 7am to 5pm. Speed 20%: 5pm to 7am. 7 days a week.

Other Fans Greenhouse 1 - Main Area

Description - 4 Fixed Pedestal Fans for disease susceptible varieties.
Operation - Low Speed from 7am to 5pm. Off 5pm to 7am. 7 days a week.

Description - 3 Personal Pedestal Fans for Staff Comfort/Safety.
Operation - Low/Medium Speed: 7.30am to 4pm. Off: 4pm to 7.30am. 5 Days a week.

Fixed HAF Fans Greenhouse 1 - Hardening Off Area

Description - 2 HAF Fans Controlled by VSD Fan Controller.
Operation - Speed 55%: 7am to 5pm. Off 5pm to 7am. 7 days a week.

Greenhouse 2 – HAF Fans and Fan Related Equipment

Fixed HAF Fans Greenhouse 2 - Main Area

Description - 8 HAF Fans Controlled by VSD Fan Controller and AutoGrow.
Operation - Speed 3 (60%): 7am to 5pm. Speed 1 (20%): 5pm to 7am. 7 days a week.

Note: GH2 HAF fans are hard wired and cannot be adjusted, except by a licensed electrician.

Glossary of Acronyms

HAF = Horizontal Air Flow

VSD = Variable Speed Drive

Contingency Management

In the event of a site power failure the generator will start automatically, and the Autogrow System will operate as normal.

Main Water Tank Pumps: Water tank pump operation be limited to 7am to 7pm.

Aim:

To control noise from main pressure pump operation during the night period.

Performance Indicator:

Noise generated by pump operation is not audible at nearest noise sensitive premises boundaries outside the prescribed hours.

Purpose:

This pump is used to pressurize the farm water system and is only needed between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

Tasks / Actions:

The pumps be controlled via an automatic timer. The timer operational controls must be only accessible by Management of the facility.

Roof Opening Mechanisms: Roof opening mechanisms be maintained to ensure noise is not generated from faulty equipment.

Aim:

To minimise noise from roof opening operations.

Performance Indicator:

Atypical noise generated by roof opening operations is not caused.

Tasks / Actions:

Staff of the facility undertake regular inspections of roof opening mechanisms.

If the mechanism changes in sound level or character, Staff immediately notify Management to investigate cause and remediation or repairs if required.

Emergency Electrical Generator: Emergency electrical generator be controlled such that usage is minimised.

Aim:

To minimise noise from emergency electrical generator operation.

Performance Indicator:

Emergency electrical generator operation occurs for the minimum amount of time required.

Tasks / Actions:

Staff of the facility undertake regular inspections of emergency electrical generator, and generator be kept in good working order.

The Emergency electrical generator be set to automatically activate in the event of a power outage, and automatically shut down once power is restored.

Regular emergency electrical generator operation to check mechanism be limited to the following hours:

- Maximum of once per month;
- Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm;
- No more than ½ hour of continuous use.

Management keep a permanent record of the nature of the emergency and hours of use of the equipment.

Powered High Pressure Water Cleaners

The Electrically Powered High Pressure Water Cleaners will be the primary equipment used on site for cleaning. In the event of a breakdown or for servicing needs of the electrically powered units, the Combustion powered unit will be limited to the following hours:

- Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm;
- No operation on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.
- Within the permitted hours Combustion High Pressure Water Cleaners may only be used for a maximum two (2) hour period on any one day. The maximum two (2) hour period is to be a continuous block of time and not intermittent time periods adding to 2 hours.

Aim:

To manage noise associated with use of combustion high pressure water cleaners impacting noise sensitive receivers.

Performance Indicator:

Noise generated by combustion powered high pressure water cleaners is not audible at nearest noise sensitive premises boundaries outside the prescribed hours.

Purpose:

To clean trays, benches, floors and other equipment in order to maintain a clean, safe and healthy growing environment.

Tasks / Actions:

Management ensure that Staff only use combustion high pressure water cleaner equipment between the prescribed hours.

Staff using the combustion high pressure water cleaner equipment note start time and cease use within 2 hours of commencement of use.

Management keep a permanent record of the equipment usage time start and finish time.

Emergency Use:

If the electrical cleaner breaks down or a service is needed the combustion water cleaner will be required, all efforts be made to repair the electrical pressure washer in a timely manner and neighbours will be informed of progress.

Management keep a permanent record of the nature of the emergency and hours of use of the equipment. The emergency situation be reviewed by Management to investigate opportunities to avoid a similar event occurring.

An email notification be sent to occupants of the following properties (if the occupants are willing to supply an email address) advising that an emergency situation has arisen, and use of plant and equipment will be used outside the prescribed hours of use:

- 74 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 4 on DP865491);
- 74A Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 3 on DP865491);
- 76 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 2 on DP859749);
- 75 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 2 on DP848007);
- 47 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 4 on DP1191598);

Review:

If equipment is altered (e.g. a low noise unit is sourced), operational usage may be altered accordingly, with this plan altered to suit.

Combustion Powered Mister or Fogger: Use of combustion powered misters be limited to the following hours:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am – 12pm (midday).
- Saturday 8.30am – 12pm.
- Within the permitted hours the combustion Powered Mister or Fogger may only be used for a maximum two & half (2.5) hour period on any one day. The maximum two & half (2.5) hour period is to be a continuous block of time and not intermittent time periods adding to 2.5 hour,
- No operation on Sundays or Public Holidays.

Aim:

To manage noise associated with use of misters impacting noise sensitive receivers.

Performance Indicator:

Noise generated by misters is not audible at nearest noise sensitive premises boundaries outside the prescribed hours.

Purpose:

To apply foliar feeding and disease prevention/treatment to plants. Needs to be early as possible when hot and may be later in cooler months.

Tasks / Actions:

Management ensure that Staff only use mister equipment between the prescribed hours. Management keep a permanent record of the equipment usage time start and finish time.

Staff using the mister equipment note start time and cease use within 2 hours of commencement of use.

Emergency Use:

If a mister is required in an emergency situation outside the prescribed hours of use, a record of the nature of the emergency, equipment used and hours of use of the equipment be kept.

The emergency situation be reviewed by Management to investigate opportunities to avoid a similar event occurring.

A email notification be sent to occupants of the following properties (if the occupants are willing to supply an email address) advising that an emergency situation has arisen, and use of plant and equipment will be used outside the prescribed hours of use:

- 74 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 4 on DP865491);
- 74A Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 3 on DP865491);
- 76 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 2 on DP859749);
- 75 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 2 on DP848007);
- 47 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 4 on DP1191598);

Review:

If equipment is altered (e.g. a low noise unit is sourced), operational usage may be altered accordingly, with this plan altered to suit.

Heating Boiler: Hot Water Boiler used to heat Greenhouse 1 and 2 in winter months only.

Aim:

To minimise noise from water heating boiler operation. Generally only in use from around mid June to mid September, depending upon the weather.

Performance Indicator:

Noise generated by boiler operation complies with the requirements of the Noise Policy for Industry, produced by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (Intrusive Criteria LAeq, 15 minute background level plus 5).

Noise impacts are to be assessed at the reasonably most-affected point on or within the residential property boundary or, if that is more than 30 meters from the residence, at the reasonably most affected point within 30 meters of the residence, but not closer than 3 meters to a reflective surface and at a height of between 1.2–1.5 meters above ground level.

Note: The background noise levels to be measured are those that are present at the time of the noise assessment and without the fans operating. If the measured background level is less than 30 dB(A), then the rating background level is considered to be 30 dB(A).

Purpose:

To maintain a minimum night time temperature of 14°C necessary to prevent disease and to enable plant growth.

Tasks / Actions:

Staff of the facility undertake regular inspections of water heating boiler, and water heating boiler to be kept in good working order.

Any maintenance of water heating boiler operation to check mechanism be limited to the following hours:

- Maximum of once per month;
- Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm;
- No more than 1 hour of continuous use.

Potting Machine and Compressor: Potting Machine and Compressor operation be limited to 7am to 4pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 12pm Saturday in case of non-standard business operation needs.

Aim:

To control noise from Potting Machine and Compressor.

Performance Indicator:

Noise generated by Potting Machine and Compressor operation complies with the requirements of the Noise Policy for Industry, produced by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (Intrusive Criteria LAeq, 15 minute background level plus 5).

Noise impacts are to be assessed at the reasonably most-affected point on or within the residential property boundary or, if that is more than 30 meters from the residence, at the reasonably most affected point within 30 meters of the residence, but not closer than 3 meters to a reflective surface and at a height of between 1.2–1.5 meters above ground level.

Note: The background noise levels to be measured are those that are present at the time of the noise assessment and without the fans operating. If the measured background level is less than 30 dB(A), then the rating background level is considered to be 30 dB(A).

Purpose:

To fill pots with media necessary for the growing of stock.

Tasks / Actions:

Staff of the facility undertake regular inspections of Potting Machine and Compressor and to be kept in good working order. Northwest roller door to be kept shut during potting machine/compressor hours of operation. In situations where Northwest Roller door has to be opened for any reason. The Potting Machine and Compressor are to be turned off.

Mobile Plant & Equipment: Excavator and Fork Lift.

Excavator to be used for general site maintenance (e.g. clearing drains) and managing bulk potting mix stockpile. Excavator usage is typically between 20 minutes to 1 hour every two weeks, with drain clearing 2 to 3 hours every 6 months, depending on weather conditions.

Excavator usage be limited to the following under normal (non-emergency) conditions:

- Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm;
- No operation on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.
- Within the permitted hours Excavator may only be used for a maximum four (4) hour period on any one day. The maximum four (4) hour period is to be a continuous block of time and not intermittent time periods adding to 4 hours.

Forklift to be used for truck loading, emptying spent media, moving materials around the site (e.g. moving pallets from storage shed to grow sheds or other internal locations). Forklift use is every day, being an average of 30 minutes per day, with occasional heavier use when a larger delivery is received.

Forklift usage be limited to the following:

- Monday - Saturday 8am – 4pm;
- Sunday 10am – 4pm.
- Within the permitted hours Fork Lift may only be used for a maximum three (3) hour period on any one day.

Aim:

To minimise noise from mobile plant.

Performance Indicator:

Noise generated by mobile plant and equipment is not audible at nearest noise sensitive premises boundaries outside the prescribed hours.

Tasks / Actions:

Staff of the facility undertake regular inspections of mobile plant and equipment.

If the mobile plant and equipment changes in sound level or character, Staff immediately notify Management to investigate cause and remediation or repairs if required.

Communication with Surrounding Properties

Aim:

To maintain open communication with surrounding property owners and to inform them of any significant changes to operational timetabling, or a typical activity.

Tasks / Actions:

Prior to significant changes to operational timetabling, or planned atypical activity being undertaken, the surrounding noise sensitive receivers should be contacted and informed of the anticipated duration of works.

A text notification be sent to occupants of the following properties (if the occupants are willing to supply a mobile telephone number) advising that an emergency situation has arisen, and use of plant and equipment will be used outside the prescribed hours of use:

- 74 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 4 on DP865491);
- 74A Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 3 on DP865491);
- 76 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 2 on DP859749);
- 75 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 2 on DP848007);
- 47 Howards Road, Burringbar (Lot 4 on DP1191598);



A complaints specific email address be created and distributed to occupants of the dwellings identified above. This email box must be checked each day by a member of the Senior Management.

Complaint management

In the event of a complaint, the complainant be directed to Management for consultation.

A record be kept of the complaint, and an investigation be undertaken to identify the event, and to introduce any remediation necessary. Refer to the attached Noise Complaint Register to assist in managing and investigating a complaint.

A dedicated email has been set up and linked to the Operations computer as well as Senior Management personal mobile devices. This email: neighbours@pocketherbs.com.au will be used to receive and respond to any issues raised. This change has been made in response to an issue where an email from a neighbour was missed by staff.

Responsible Person:

Site Manger is responsible for ensuring notifications are conducted at the appropriate time, and noise complaints are addressed appropriately.

Reporting:

All forms of communications to surrounding residences should be documented as well as any feedback received. Feedback should be reviewed and responded to accordingly.

Review:

Reviewed prior to operational changes, or upon receipt of bona fide complaint or upon request by Tweed Shire Council.

NOISE COMPLAINT REGISTER

Initial Complaint Recording

Date & Time of record: _____

Name of Complainant (if given): _____

Complainant Telephone Number: _____

Address of complainant (if given): _____

Identification and description of noise source (e.g. noisy equipment): _____

Time of day noise is occurring: _____

Number of days the noise has occurred: _____

Complaint Investigation & Remediation

Recommended control (e.g. fit new muffler): _____

Verification that noise controls have been implemented: _____

Follow-up Complainant

Contact date: _____

Complainant comment (e.g. is noise still annoying ? – if yes, refer to Note below): _____

NOTE

If complainant is still affected after all reasonable steps have been taken to ameliorate the noise, specialist advice should be sought from a qualified acoustical consultant.

Contacts

PHP: neighbours@pocketherbs.com.au