

Sound pressure level

The sound pressure level is measured in decibels (dB), normally at a distance of one meter from the source of noise. As the scale is logarithmic, the indication of the sound pressure level is not straightforward. A rise of the pressure level by 6dB means a multiplication of the sound pressure volume by two!.

When selecting an acoustic signalling device not only the sound pressure level is important, but as much also the frequency of the sound. If the surrounding noise is low, a signal device with a high pitch sound will be much more effective. This rule also applies the other way round!

If the device is to be installed outdoors, prevailing winds may considerably reduce the distance the signal can be heard.

Examples of noises Pain threshold 130 dB Airplane at take-off 120 dB Pop-Concert 110 dB 100 dB Air-pressure hammer Intense traffic 90 dB Truck traffic 70 dB Office 60 dB Conversation 50 dB Residential road 40 dB Apartment 30 dB 20 dB Library Leaves 10 dB No audibility 0 dB

Comax Industrial Signals Ltd Römerstrasse 6/P.O.Box 264 CH-4512 Bellach Tel. +41 (0)32 617 31 41 Fax +41 (0)32 617 31 40 eMail <u>info@comax.ch</u> Internet <u>www.comax.ch</u>

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