APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY OF ACOUSTIC TERMINOLOGY

Sound Pressure Level (LP)	A logarithmic ratio of a sound pressure measured at distance, relative to the threshold of hearing (20 µPa RMS) and expressed in decibels.
Sound Power Level (L_W)	A logarithmic ratio of the acoustic power output of a source relative to 10-12 watts and expressed in decibels. Sound power level is calculated from measured sound pressure levels.
dB	Decibel – A measurement of sound level expressed as a logarithmic ratio of sound pressure P relative to a reference pressure of Pr=20 µPa i.e. dB = 20 x log(P/Pr).
dBA	A measurement of sound level which has its frequency characteristics modified by a filter (A-weighted) so as to more closely approximate the frequency bias of the human ear.
A-weighting	The process by which noise levels are corrected to account for the non-linear frequency response of the human ear. All noise levels are quoted relative to a sound pressure of 2x10-5Pa.
$L_{Aeq\ (t)}$	The equivalent continuous (time-averaged) A-weighted sound level. This is commonly referred to as the average noise level. The suffix "t" represents the time period to which the noise level relates.
L_{Amax}	The A-weighted maximum noise level. The highest noise level which occurs during the measurement period.