

# SAFETY BULLETIN

<b>Safety Bulletin No.</b>	<b>2026/05</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	June 2026
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Hazardous Noise During RAAF Exercise</b>		
<b>Area of Concern</b>	Airside		
<b>Issued By</b>	Vikki Young – Head of Safety		

## Background

Darwin International Airport (DIA) operates as a joint-user facility alongside the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Each year, the RAAF undertakes joint military exercises involving high-performance fighter jets capable of supersonic speeds, generating extreme noise.

## Key message

ADG is committed to preventing harm to all personnel. Exposure to hazardous noise without appropriate controls can lead to hearing loss, tinnitus, reduced ability to communicate safely and increased personal stress. This Safety Bulletin outlines the minimum control measures required for all staff working on airside during these exercise periods. While hearing protection reduces exposure, it must not be relied upon as the sole control. Time in high noise areas must be minimised and access restricted to essential personnel only.

## Action Required

Where hazardous noise risks cannot be eliminated, they must be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable:

- Access to airside areas (including the terminal roof) during RAAF jet operations is restricted to essential personnel only and time spent in these areas must be kept to a minimum.
- Workers required to operate airside during jet activity must wear Class 5 earplugs and earmuffs. Withdraw from noisy areas if noise exceeds your comfort level.
- Ensure hearing protection is properly fitted, provides a full seal, and is in good condition. Replace any damaged or worn PPE immediately.
- As noisy environments may hinder ability to communicate effectively, ensure all visual warning systems are operational and functioning correctly and workers are aware of them.
- If noise levels interfere with communication or the ability to hear warning signals, alternative communication methods must be used, or work should be paused until conditions are safe.



Disposable earplugs



Earmuffs

For more information see [Northern Territory Code of Practice: Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work](#)

**THINK SAFELY, ACT SAFELY**