



Safety advice for operating Kahlenberg horns

All Kahlenberg sound signals are built to comply with The 1972 International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea ('72 COLREGS), ANNEX III. This means they are capable of producing very high sound pressure levels.

Typical measurements are 123.5 dB (A) for the smallest horns in the range (the K-Series), 133 dB (A) for the D-0A and 138 dB (A) for the D1, all measured at 1m distance from the trumpet. These sound pressure levels will be considerably higher if sampled at closer range. Larger units produce more volume again.

Kahlenberg UK recommends that horns are installed and operated as per the recommendations in the COLREGS. These include the advice that "A whistle shall be placed as high as practicable on a vessel, in order to reduce interception of the emitted sound by obstructions and also to minimize hearing damage risk to personnel." For your convenience you can download a summary guide note on this subject from our site:

<http://www.kahlenberg.co.uk/imo-sound-signal-requirements>

Beyond that we urge commonsense and, where appropriate, correct briefing of operators and anyone likely to be in the proximity of horns during operation. This briefing should include:

- an instruction that all crew should not be in the immediate proximity of the horn during operation, and in any event not in close proximity to the trumpet mouth;
- an instruction to the operator that, whenever practicable, crew are warned prior to operation to prevent surprise and any consequential issue;
- an instruction to all aboard that sound signals are not toys and should not be used for scaring people, or for acts of bravado (eg ears placed against the trumpet);
- precautions to ensure that mains voltage equipment is not opened when energised and that components in air supply systems are not opened when pressurised.

It is not anticipated that problems will emerge with compliance but UK commercial bodies should familiarise themselves with the HSE document 'Controlling noise at work', which can be downloaded here:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l108.pdf>

Companies in other countries should check national legislation.

Air pressure and mains voltage

Please note that Kahlenberg horns use high-pressure air systems and/or mains single or three-phase voltage for operation. Please use fully qualified technicians to ensure that your installation is safe.