

# NOISE

## news

Fall 2007/8



A LEGAL INFORMATION UPDATE  
FOR NEW YORK CONTRACTORS

**STAY LEGAL:**  
COMPLY WITH NEW YORK CITY'S  
NOISE CONTROL MEASURES

## Keep site noise under control

*BBS-92 is the ONLY back-up alarm specifically listed in New York City's noise control measures for use in all areas*

Construction contractors and utilities in New York are now well into their planning for January 1, 2008, when a section of New York City's new noise control code comes into force.

From this date, all utility, construction plant and trucks must have an acceptable alarm in place on their vehicles before they arrive on site. However, the Citywide Construction Noise Mitigation rules, issued by the



noise control code. The City of Seattle and other authorities across the world are also mandating 'white sound' (broadband) alarms. The sound from a bbs-tek® 'white sound' alarm disperses faster than a standard 'tonal' alarm, yet

emits a sweeping "shhh-shhh" sound and, best of all, can only be heard in the vicinity from where it is emitted. The sound spans a multi-frequency range from around 800Hz to over 6,000Hz. It is this clever use of the latest sound technology that in its noise control measures persuaded New York City authorities to specify bbs-tek® in their noise control measures for sensitive sites.

There are already over 8,000 bbs-tek® alarms fitted across the US in cities, ports and construction sites - working to improve safety and reduce noise complaints. The appeal is obvious and has already prompted big names such as local CAT dealer H.O. Penn to "strongly recommend" bbs-tek® to its customers.

**H.O. PENN CAT**

*"H.O. Penn has been dedicated to outstanding customer service for more than 80 years. Our history shows we have a long record of continually making improvements to help support our customers and make them more successful. The company is focused on seeking all-win solutions. bbs-tek® is one of those solutions - a highly reliable product from Brigade Electronics Inc that is better for the customer, better for the workers, and better for the neighbors."*

STEVE WASHBURN,  
PRODUCT  
SUPPORT  
SALES  
MANAGER,  
H.O. PENN



Brigade's Chairman,  
Chris Hanson-Abbott

### BRIGADE FLIES THE SAFETY FLAG

Based in New York, Brigade Electronics Inc is the US subsidiary of the European market leader in back-up safety solutions, established in 1976, Brigade Electronics plc. The group is believed to be the only one in the world focused solely on providing a complete range of back-up safety systems. Today, North America is one of Brigade's most important markets.

City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), currently shows only one alarm technology is acceptable for use near sensitive areas - and that's bbs-tek®. Because trucks and other types of plant move from site to site, fitting bbs-tek® will ensure compliance no matter where the truck goes, or machine operates. 'bbs-tek®' uses white sound alarm technology from Brigade Electronics Inc.

By their very nature, tonal "beep..beep" alarms cause noise nuisance, hence the reason for New York City specifying bbs-tek® in its new

usually is equally effective at a lower decibel rating, therefore reducing noise pollution. Even at a lower volume, tonal alarms can still cause a noise nuisance which can prompt complaints to the City.

Says Brigade Electronics' Director & General Manager, Henry Morgan: "Once a valid complaint is received, the authorities have no option but to conduct a full and thorough inspection of all noise-related activities on site. This might lead to identifying an inadvertent breach of regulations."

The bbs-tek® 'white sound' alarm



- ◆ Improves response - only alerts those in or near the danger area.
- ◆ Minimizes back-up alarm noise for both workers and site neighbors.
- ◆ Is safer because 'white sound' is readily locatable - and unlike tonal alarms it does not cause confusion.

## What others are saying about bbs-tek®

*US citizens and construction industry give new 'white sound' back-up alarms a resounding thumbs up*

bbs-tek® has won numerous safety and environmental awards, including an award from the Society of Automotive Engineers; a Good Community award in Hawaii; and accolades from communities across America, especially Seattle, Phoenix and Houston. "Our bbs-tek® offers a win-win solution to

contractors in New York City," says Brigade Electronics' Director & General Manager, Henry Morgan. "Not only do they get a quieter solution which will keep both citizens and inspectors happy, but bbs-tek® offers a safer solution with sound which is easier to locate."

The signs and sounds of commonly used warning lights and audible alarms are heard all over the city and so are associated with noisy construction sites, not imminent danger. Brigade's bbs-tek® multi-frequency range avoids the aural hazards and irritations resulting from shrill narrowband sirens.

*"Your back-up alarms are a great answer to complaints from citizens who want to know why they have to be aware someone is backing up 500 feet from their bedroom at 5am."*




DAVID GEORGE,  
HEAD OF NOISE CONTROL  
& ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES, CITY OF  
SEATTLE, WA

*"bbs-tek® alarms are safer because they are more effective at alerting persons to hazards, and the sound is of a less impact outside the operations."*




GARY MCCALL,  
AREA MANAGER,  
HANSON AGGREGATES

*"Our testing and analyses confirm that bbs-tek® provides a superior warning for those in danger areas. It is more easily located and less likely to experience interference from reflecting surfaces than narrowband back-up alarms."*




LES BLOMBERG,  
DIRECTOR,  
NOISE POLLUTION  
CLEARINGHOUSE, VT

*"bbs-tek® has provided a long term solution to a long standing issue...This year we plan to replace every offensive bleeper on all our machines and trucks with neighborhood-friendly bbs-tek®."*

LORNE FLEMING, EQUIPMENT DIVISION  
MANAGER, GRACE PACIFIC CORP, HI

*"The Brigade back-up alarms have been well accepted by our mining crews. We haven't had a single mechanical failure on any unit to date."*

MICHAEL S DELANEY, VICE-PRESIDENT  
OF EQUIPMENT, CPM DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION - A DIVISION OF OLDCASTLE  
MATERIALS

*"Our neighbors and employees are very impressed with the non-piercing sound of your alarms that we have installed on our equipment. Noise from construction sites is a major source of complaint."*

BILL KELLEY, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT,  
MEMPHIS STONE & GRAVEL

## Product book: mix and match

### INSTALLATION

- ◆ Fitting instructions are supplied with alarms and will be available by the end of 2007 on our web site at [www.brigade-electronics.com](http://www.brigade-electronics.com)
- ◆ bbs-tek® alarms must be installed so the speaker faces towards, and projects the sound into, the hazard area (see diagram – above right).
- ◆ Back-up alarms must be fitted to meet OSHA or other appropriate regulations to provide an audible warning in the hazard area at the back of the vehicle.
- ◆ A range of models is available for all anticipated applications.
- ◆ Make sure the model selected is appropriate for the intended application.

### TESTING

- ◆ The alarm must be clearly audible throughout the hazard area.
- ◆ Refer to OSHA and other appropriate regulations.

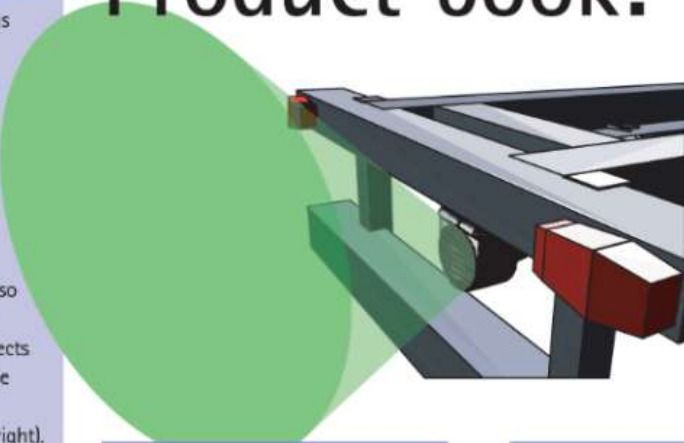
### MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Test regularly to ensure correct function, if faulty first check for good wiring connection to the vehicle.
- ◆ If fault persists replace.

For more information email [sales@brigade-electronics.com](mailto:sales@brigade-electronics.com)

### WARRANTY

- ◆ Covers the alarm for the life of the vehicle to which originally fitted.



*Learn more about bbs-tek® 'noiseless' back-up alarms: Installation and maintenance couldn't be easier*

The unique 'bbs-tek®' broadband alarms are receiving ringing endorsements from companies and organizations around America. To keep up with demand, Brigade Electronics has developed a range of products for the construction and utility industries:

#### MODEL NO: BBS-87

Commonly fitted to fork lift trucks and pickup trucks.

**Sound Level:**  
87dB(A) @ 3.3 ft

**Size (WxDxH):**  
3.5 in x 1.9 in x 1.5 in



#### MODEL NO: BBS-92 & BBS-97

Both are commonly used on utility trucks, light mobile plant and forklift trucks.

**Sound Level:**  
92dB(A) @ 3.3 ft (BBS-92);  
97dB(A) @ 3.3 ft (BBS-97)

**Size (WxDxH):**  
5 in x 2.6 in x 3 in



#### MODEL NO: SA-BBS-97

This is an automatically adjustable version with dBA range 77 to 97, maintaining approx 10dBA above ambient.

**Sound Level:**  
97dB(A) max @ 3.3 ft

**Size (WxDxH):**  
5 in x 2.6 in x 3 in



## A Summary of New York City's Key Noise Control Measures to Keep You in the Know

*The only practicable way to ensure that your back-up alarms conform to New York City's noise control measures at all sites throughout the City is by fitting either Brigade BBS-Q2, or an OSHA approved equivalent quieter back-up alarm. These are the only back-up alarms currently permitted for use in community sensitive areas.*

*(Note: Brigade's automatically adjustable alarm, the SA-BBS-Q7, is under evaluation.)*

(SEE SECTION: 15 RCNY § 28-102(d)(4)(A)(i)(c) (2007))

*If there are complaints about noise from back-up alarms on site, then an inspection could result in routing being changed to reduce the nuisance, and trigger a full noise mitigation compliance investigation.*

(SEE SECTION: 15 RCNY § 28-102(c)(1)(B)(iv) (2007))

*All trucks that do not enter site but are operating after hours must be fitted with quieter back-up alarms, as detailed in the Rules of the City of New York.*

(SEE SECTION: 15 RCNY § 28-102(d)(4) (2007))

*Work close to "sensitive" areas is not covered by the short term construction and roadwork exemptions, and so must use approved, quieter back-up alarms. Currently only BBS-Q2 and equivalent quieter models are approved.*

(SEE SECTION: 15 RCNY § 28-101(n) (2007))

*"Sensitive" areas include schools, hospitals, places of worship and homes for the aging.*

(SEE SECTION: 15 RCNY § 28-101(i) (2007))

*If it isn't possible to fit an approved alarm, then the contractor will need to either select a drive thru route, or erect noise barriers.*

(SEE SECTION: 15 RCNY § 28-102(d)(4)(B) (2007))

For further details –  
email: [sales@brigade-electronics.com](mailto:sales@brigade-electronics.com) –  
requesting "Reference  
New York Noise Code".

- ◆ 699 BRUSH AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10465, 718-409-8500
- ◆ 660 UNION AVENUE, HOLTSVILLE, NY 11742, 631-758-7500
- ◆ 122 NOXON ROAD, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12603, 845-452-1200
- ◆ 783 BLOOMINGBURG ROAD, BLOOMINGBURG, NY 12721, 845-733-6400
- ◆ 225 RICHARD STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111, 860-666-8401
- ◆ PETER CIAMEI, ADVERTISING MANAGER, H.O. PENN, 845-437-4015, FAX: 845-452-3592