

Less construction noise on public holidays

By ESTHER AU YONG

THE National Environment Agency (NEA) is clamping down on noise pollution.

It will introduce rules to regulate construction noise, said Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Yaacob Ibrahim yesterday, responding to issues raised by Members of Parliament in the Committee of Supply debate on the Budget estimates for the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

Construction sites within 150m of residential areas, which start work from Sept 1, will not be allowed to carry out construction activities between 10pm on the eve of a Sunday or public holiday, and 10am the next day.

The NEA will extend this prohibition to the entire day on Sundays and public holidays for such sites that start work from Sept 1 next year.

Dr Yaacob said: "The NEA

consulted the industry and other stakeholders on measures to minimise construction-noise nuisance, while allowing construction to keep pace with development."

The NEA will implement the changes **progressively** to give the construction industry sufficient time to adjust, he added.

It will also tighten the noise standards for new and in-use vehicles, to levels that are about twice the volume of normal speech, which registers 50 decibels (dBA). From Oct 1, the acceptable limits for new vehicles, depending on their type, will be lowered from between 99 dBA and 107dBA, to between 94dBA and 100dBA.

For in-use vehicles, the new standards - lowered to between 99dBA and 107dBA - will be effective from April 1 next year.

The NEA will also tighten the penalty **regime** for food-hygiene offences from next month.

It will raise the minimum composition sum for food-hy-

giene offences from \$100 to between \$200 and \$400. Food handlers working for suspended licensees will have to retake and pass the Basic Food Hygiene course before resuming work.

The NEA will also introduce a **voluntary** accreditation scheme for the cleaning industry to raise its standards. It is consulting the industry on the proposed scheme and expects to complete consultations by the end of the year.

It is also considering establishing a Public Hygiene Council to improve hygiene standards in the community.

estheray@sph.com.sg

HELPDESK 我的字典

Consulted: 商议 shāng yì

Progressively: 逐渐的
zhú jiàn de

Regime: 政体 zhèng tǐ

Voluntary: 自愿的 zì yuàn de
