

The drawback to Wi-Fi solutions is variability of signal strength and distance instruments can be placed. The second advancement is 3G modem connectivity. All of the aforementioned benefits of Wi-Fi connectivity apply to 3G modem such as remote download of measurement criteria, listening live through the instrument as well as GPS location of an instrument. In addition to these benefits 3G modem connectivity allows for extreme remote placement of instruments. Connection to the instruments will only be based on signal strength of the providing carrier (Verizon, AT&T, etc.). In scenarios where instruments need to be placed in areas of limited access or housing communities 3G modem connectivity is hard to beat. Many times remote instrument installations will use Solar Power panels to provide drip charges to a permanent battery pack for the instruments. With the ability to place instruments remotely this connection option also allows for alerts through social media outlets, SMS and emails. For specific instruments, operators can setup email addresses, cell phone SMS alerts and or twitter handles to be notified at certain noise levels or “trigger” levels. Examples would be: If 85dBA for 3 seconds or longer send an email to \_\_ , or if 90 dBA at any point send a tweet on this twitter handle. Now these Environmental monitors can immediately update safety professionals, plant managers or neighborhood association organizations of noise level alerts. Through the 3G Modem option instruments can also be set to record the actual noise at set durations preceding the triggered level for playback. The playback of actual noise events with captured noise before the trigger allows professionals to determine what took place to cause the noise trigger. The final advancement is further development of software functions for day to day use of instruments rather than data management only. Many legacy software packages simply manage data or generate reports, but a number of packages now allow instruments to be customized by the operator. Operators can now set calendar functions for specific instruments to allow for noise threshold triggers to change based on time of day, weekday vs. weekend, a specific date or a combination of them all. An example would be that a plants operating hours are 8 am to 5 pm EST where the Safety Professional would like to be notified via SMS if noise were to exceed 85dBA at any point of the day, but after 5 pm EST the Safety Professional would like that notification to be off. Through calendar functions individual instruments can have these detailed settings running automatically once set without any ongoing maintenance from the Safety Professional. As Environmental Noise regulations continue to tighten these features will allow the Safety Professionals to better manage, record and alert specific contacts when noise levels are exceeded.

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