



Hearing Conservation

Environmental Health and Safety

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- vi. Ensure employees are not exposed to occupational noise, or properly wear hearing protectors, for 14 hours prior to baseline audiometric testing.
- vii. Ensure a variety of hearing protection is provided, including ear plugs and earmuffs, at no cost to employees.
- viii. Ensure employees wear hearing protection when required.
- ix. Ensure signage requiring hearing protection is posted, where applicable.
- x. Ensure that when replacing equipment, new equipment must have a lower noise exposure level than the existing equipment, if feasible.

D. Employees

- i. Adhere to the requirements of this program.
- ii. Participate in noise monitoring activities.
- iii. Attend and complete annual training and audiometric tests.
- iv. Wear hearing protection as required.
- v. Ensure hearing protection is maintained in good condition.
- vi. Notify supervisors of changes in the workplace that could change noise exposures or when hearing protection needs to be replaced.

IV. Noise Monitoring

When employee exposure to noise is suspected or known to equal or exceed a TWA of 85 dBA, noise monitoring will be coordinated by EHS. All exposure measurements of continuous, intermittent, and impulsive sources of noise must include all noise within the 80 to 130 dBA range; exposure to impact or impulsive noise must never exceed 140 dBA.

- A. Noise exposure monitoring will be conducted with area sound level measurements, personal dosimetry, or a combination of these techniques.
- B. Measurements will be made with calibrated equipment operated by EHS or a designate.
- C. Monitoring will be repeated whenever there is a change in production, process, equipment, or controls that results in increased noise exposure.
- D. Affected employees will have the opportunity to observe any noise measurements during collection and will have access to monitoring results.

V. Audiometric Testing

- A. All employees with known or suspected noise exposure at or above the action level (TWA of 85 dBA) are required to participate in audiometric testing. This exceedance can occur as infrequently as one day per year.
 - i. A baseline test will be conducted within 6 months of the employee's first exposure at or above the action level of a TWA of 85 dBA.
 - ii. Supervisors must ensure employees are not exposed to occupational noise, or properly wear hearing protectors, for 14 hours prior to baseline testing.
 - iii. Audiometric testing will be conducted annually.
 - iv. All employees will receive the results of audiometric testing in writing. If an STS has occurred, employees will receive written notification within 21 days.
 - v. If the results of annual audiometric testing indicate an STS, the employee has the option to receive a re-test within 30 days. The results of the re-test will be considered as the annual audiogram.
 - vi. When tests indicate an STS, the following must occur:
 - a. Employees not wearing hearing protection will be provided hearing protectors, trained in their use and care, and required to wear them.

VII. Training

- A. Each employee with known or suspected exposure to noise at or above a TWA of 85 dBA must receive hearing conservation training upon hire and annually.
- B. Training must include:
 - i. The effects of noise on hearing.

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Appendix 1 – Audiometric Testing Requirements

- A. Audiometric tests will be performed by:
 - i. A licensed or certified audiologist, otolaryngologist, or other physician, or
 - ii. A technician who is certified by the Council of Accreditation in Occupational Hearing