



<i>Title:</i> Hearing Conservation Program			
Number	EH&S -1-8	Revision:	6/17/08
Date	1993	Pages	5

PURPOSE: To protect employees from adverse effects of overexposure to noise.

SCOPE: Hospital wide.

POLICY: All workers who work in high noise environments identified by Environmental Health and Safety are to be included in the Hospital's Hearing Conservation Program.

PROCEDURES:

I. Monitoring

All workplaces suspected of having noise levels that may exceed the 85 dBA may be monitored by Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) to accurately identify employees who receive daily noise doses at or above the 85 dBA. In lieu of monitoring but based on equipment, tasks performed or other pertinent information, staff may be placed in the Hearing Conservation Program.

- A. Initial monitoring of the worksite or of noisy work tasks may be conducted to determine the noise exposure levels representative of all workers whose 8-hr TWA noise exposures may equal or exceed 85 dBA. For workers remaining in essentially stationary, continuous noise levels, either a sound level meter or a dosimeter may be used. However, for workers who move around frequently or who perform different tasks with intermittent or varying noise levels, noise dosimeters may provide a more accurate assessment of the extent of exposures.
- B. Monitoring may be repeated when there is a change in production, process, equipment or controls.
- C. Employees exposed at or above 85 dBA must be notified of the results of exposure monitoring.

II. Groups in Hearing Conservation Program (HCP)

The following Physical Plant and Facilities groups have been identified by EH&S and are included in the Hearing Conservation Program: Hospital Grounds, Hospital HVAC, and Hospital Cabinet Shop.

III. Audiometric Testing

All employees who have been identified in the HCP must have baseline audiograms taken within six months of their first exposure and annual audiograms thereafter.

- A. Baseline audiograms must be preceded by 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise; however, hearing protectors may be used as a substitute for this requirement.
- B. Annual audiograms must be obtained during paid working hours through Employee Health Services.

IV. Hearing Protection

- A. Workers who have been identified in the HCP are required to wear hearing protectors when working in high noise areas or when engaged in noisy work. The employer shall provide hearing protectors at no cost to the workers.
- B. Hearing protectors shall attenuate noise sufficiently to keep the worker's "real-world" exposure (i.e., the noise exposure at the worker's ear when hearing protectors are worn) below 85 dBA as an 8-hr TWA. In extremely noise environments, workers should wear double hearing protection (i.e., wear earplugs and earmuffs simultaneously).
- C. The employee's department must provide a variety of suitable hearing protectors from which employees may choose.

V. Training

Employees identified within the HCP must be trained annually regarding the effects of noise; the purpose, advantages, disadvantages and attenuation of hearing protection being offered; the selection, fitting, and care of protectors; and the purpose and procedures of audiometric testing.

VI. Recordkeeping

- A. Noise exposure records must be retained for two years, but data older than two years should not be discarded unless remonitoring has been performed. Audiometric test

records are to be retained for the duration of the employee's service at the Hospital.

- B. Changes in employees hearing acuity that meet the Standard Threshold Shift (STS) are to be reported on the Hospital's Employee Accident and Investigation Report, Workers Compensation C-2 form, and DOSH 900 Injury and Illness log.

VII. Noise Reduction

The reduction or elimination of noise producing sources and/or employee exposure should be sought through engineering controls (e.g., sound dampening products) and/or administrative controls (e.g., routine equipment preventative maintenance and modified work schedule).

VIII. Responsibilities

- A. **Environmental Health and Safety** will be responsible for the coordination of the overall program, with specific responsibility to:

1. Identify employees who should be included in the HCP.
2. Assist in the selection of hearing protection.
3. Provide annual hearing conservation training.
4. Conduct periodic inspections and evaluation to determine the continued effectiveness of the program.
5. Maintain copies of completed audiometric testing clearance forms and training records.

- B. **Affected Departments**

1. Ensure employees in HCP receive annual audiometric tests through Employee Health Services.
2. Provide completed audiometric testing clearance form to EH&S.
3. Purchase hearing protection devices as recommended by EH&S.
4. Coordinate employee training schedules with EH&S.
5. Enforce the proper care and usage of assigned hearing protection.

- C. **Employee** - Use hearing protection provided in accordance with the instructions and training received.
- D. **Employee Health Services**
 - 1. Coordinate annual audiometric testing for staff in the HCP and maintain audiogram records.
 - 2. Complete audiometric testing clearance form and return original to employee and a copy to EH&S.

INQUIRIES/REQUESTS:

Environmental Health and Safety
L1-059 HSC
Zip 8017
Main Office: 444-6783
FAX: 444-6845

RELATED FORMS:

Audiometric Testing Clearance form (Appendix A)
Employee Accident and Investigation Report Form (No. UH2N052 Item No. 5818)

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

29 CFR 1910.95 *Occupational Noise Exposure*
Occupational Noise Exposure, revised criteria 1998, NIOSH



Instructions:

1. Employee provides this form to the medical provider.
2. Medical provider completes form.
3. Employee returns form to own department.
4. Department send to EH&S (z= 6200 or 8017)

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

RE: AUDIOMETRIC TESTING FOR HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Employee Name _____ Title _____ Employee ID# _____

Department/Work Area _____ Test date _____

Medical Provider:

- 1.) Check Reason for Test:**
- Baseline Physical
 - Annual Physical
 - Re-test
 - Confirmation
 - Exit Physical

2.) Ensure compliance and then check both:

- Audiometric testing meets the requirements of OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95.
- Comparison between baseline and test completed.

PHYSICIAN’S WRITTEN OPINION (STS= Standard Threshold Shift)

3.) Check all that apply:

- No STS STS, Re-Test Required STS Confirmed, STS average of _____ dB
- Written letter was sent to the employee to inform them of STS. (Please attach letter.)
- An evaluation has been completed to determine the probable etiology of the STS:
 - Not noise related, referred employee to own physician.
 - Noise related, but not occupationally related, referred employee to own physician.
 - Occupational noise related, follow up training and workplace evaluation will be done by Environmental Health and Safety.

Comments: _____

Employee Signature

Date

Medical Provider Name

Medical Provider Signature

Date