

Louisiana Division
Hearing Conservation Program
 Plant/Department: _____ Written Program

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95 Occupational Noise Exposure and Dow Program Requirements for Hearing Conservation (August 1990) require that any individual with a dose exceeding or equal to 50% of their allowable daily dose must participate in a hearing conservation program. The _____ Plant/Department's hearing conservation program fulfills all of the OSHA and Dow requirements. The Hearing Conservation Program includes:

- 1) Evaluation of Noise Exposure
- 2) A baseline and annual audiogram
- 3) Annual training covering the following topics:
 - the effects of noise on hearing,
 - hearing protection (proper selection, fit, use and care),
 - the purpose of the audiogram (testing procedures and results).
- 4) Personal Hearing Protection
- 5) Engineering and Administrative Controls for Noise
- 6) Record keeping and Audits

Evaluation of Noise

The date of the last comprehensive area noise survey was ____/____/____. Personal job exposure evaluations were performed on ____/____/____.

Personal noise exposures doses were determined using _____(type) audio-dosimeter(s). Noise exposure monitoring results were based on OSHA settings (80 dBA threshold, 90 dBA criterion level, 5 dBA doubling rate). The instruments shall be checked for calibration before and after each use.

Personal noise monitoring results for each job assignment are given below. The results are given as a percent (%) of allowable daily dose with correction for full shift.

$$\frac{\text{Actual shift (hrs.)}}{\text{Monitored shift (hrs.)}} \times \text{Actual dose} = \text{Adjusted dose}$$

<u>Job Classification</u>	<u>% dose</u>	
	<u>12 Hr. Shift</u>	<u>8 Hr. Shift</u>
• _____	_____	_____
• _____	_____	_____
• _____	_____	_____
• _____	_____	_____

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• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____

Evaluation of Noise (continued)

Area sound pressure level measurements were taken using a _____ (type) sound level meter with A-weighted scale and slow meter response. The instruments were calibrated before and after each use.

Area sound pressure level measurements ranged from _____ to _____ dBA. The following areas are designated as mandatory hearing protection areas since they are at or above 90 dBA. These areas are posted with signs requiring hearing protection.

Area	Sound Level (dBA)
• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____

The following areas are designated with "DANGER" signs as hearing protection areas requiring the use of both plugs and muffs since they are 105 dBA or greater.

Area	Sound Level (dBA)
• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____

Temporary jobs that have equipment with noise levels at or above 90 dBA require temporary signs and mandatory use of hearing protection anytime the equipment is in operation. This includes such areas as sandblasting, hydroblasting, use of portable air compressors and certain hand tools. Examples of **temporary** maintenance jobs performed in our block include:

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Audiometric Testing

Baseline audiograms have been determined on all employees working in the _____ Plant/Department. Audiograms will be repeated annually on each employee as required by the OSHA Hearing Conservation Program, and follow-up will be conducted when medically appropriate.

Training

A review of the area sound level surveys and personal dosimetry was presented to employees as part of the annual training program. The presentation includes:

- the effects of noise on hearing,
- hearing protectors- their selection, proper fit, use, and care
- audiometric testing program- test procedures and results

Original training documentation will be sent to the Industrial Hygiene Department for placement in the 75 year record retention file.

As a tool for hazard communication, continuing education, and standard compliance, a copy of the noise standard (29CFR 1910.95) is posted in the plant.

Personal Hearing Protectors

Hearing protectors must be worn if 1) an employee's noise exposure exceeds 85 dBA as an 8-hr. TWA or 2) an employee is working in an area with sound pressure levels are above 90 dBA or performing a task which generates greater than 90 dBA. All hearing protection shall be chosen which can attenuate below 90 dBA for the noise source and can ensure that the 8 hr. time weighted average will not exceed 85 dBA. A combination of plugs and muffs may be needed to achieve this level of attenuation. An additional 5 dB of attenuation is allowed when using dual hearing protection (plugs + muffs).

The method for determining the attenuation of hearing protectors is described in the OSHA Hearing Conservation Amendment, Appendix B, Corporate Guidelines for a Hearing Conservation Program, Appendix B, and is included in Section 6 of the Industrial Hygiene Manual.

Hearing protectors approved for use in this plant and that will attenuate the noise below 90 dBA include the following:

<u>Device</u>	<u>Noise Reduction Rating (NRR)</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Other devices are available through plant supervision or the Industrial Hygiene Department.

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Noise Abatement Plans

Any new equipment or changes to the process will be evaluated for noise and when feasible, engineered to keep noise levels below 85 dBA.

Engineering controls for Noise Abatement in this plant are as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Method of Engineering Control</u>
• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____
• _____	_____

Date Created: __/__/__

Date for Next Review/Revision: __/__/__

Approved By: _____
I H. Contact

Plant Superintendent/
Department Head

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