

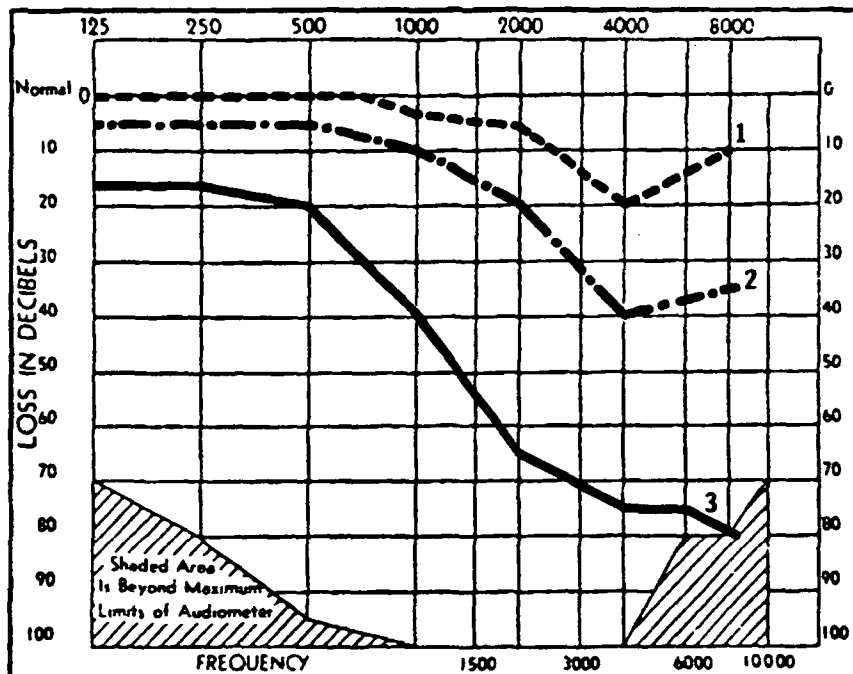


FIG 40-3b — Sensor-neural hearing losses of the type produced by noise or other causes. Curve 1—early, curve 2—intermediate, curve 3—advanced (as shown, this curve might include some involvement of presbycusis)

consideration when evaluating the effects of industrial noise on man

Management personnel can make themselves more aware of the significance of these non-noise-induced hearing losses by establishing a regular program of preplacement audiometry. This program will inform them of the hearing status of the individual at the time he is assigned to a job in which he may be exposed to industrial noise under conditions that could induce hearing impairment.

Industrial Noise Exposure

As man moves through his industrial, home, and recreational environments, he is exposed to many noise sources. He may be exposed to car or other transportation noise during the day. He may be exposed to different noises where he works. He may be exposed at home to noises from radios, or a home workshop. Jet planes or construction in the vicinity of the home may be considered, in some

cases, a noise exposure. Thus, it can be seen that man in his many environments is exposed to different noises having varied frequencies and intensities.

Noise is considered synonymous with industry in general and with certain specific industries in particular. A noise survey in 1953 of 600 typical industrial operations indicated that 75 percent of the measurements exceeded 90 decibels overall—on the "C" scale. For a number of years, this noise level was used by some organizations as the level that should not be exceeded for hearing conservation.

Noise measurement

The purpose of making noise measurements is to evaluate exposures in relation to speech interference, comfort or hearing loss, and to collect information for use in control.

The measurement of noise may be accomplished with a sound level meter, or a sound level meter in combination with an