

3. Responsibilities

- A. Plant Superintendent - Must maintain a written noise abatement program intended to prevent excessive noise exposure which can result in hearing loss among his employees. An abatement program shall consist of one or all of three possible methods of control: personal protective equipment, administrative, and engineering depending on feasibility.
- B. Industrial Hygiene Representative - Will conduct the annual noise surveys in all areas, personnel monitoring, and additional surveys as needed in problem areas. He must also maintain necessary records of area and personnel monitoring as well as signed documentation of employee education and training.
- C. Industrial Hygiene Department - Is responsible for keeping supervision informed of present and proposed noise regulations, supplying technical guidance as needed, and continually monitoring the division program to assure that the division remains within Dow, State and Federal government regulations.
- D. Medical Department - Will provide the audiometric evaluation services and documentation thereof. Medical is also responsible for determining employee's capabilities to use various types of hearing protectors.

4. Sound Monitoring Equipment

- A. All instrumentation used for noise measurements within the Louisiana Division must conform to the American National Standard specifications.
 - (1) Sound Level Meters - Meet ANSI S1.4-1976.
 - (2) Audiodosimeters - Meet ANSI S1.25-1978 with an operating range of 85-120 dB.
- B. Instruments available in the Louisiana Division include several types of sound level measuring instruments and approved audio dosimeters. For details in proper instrumentation use and availability contact the Industrial Hygiene Department.
- C. Calibration - An approved acoustical calibrator is necessary to verify accuracy of the instruments used. All equipment must be calibrated before and after measurements are made. A signed notation confirming calibration must be made on all data recorded.

5. Employee Education

The education portion of the hearing conservation and noise control program shall include the following:

- A. Employees who can potentially be overexposed to noise will be informed annually of the consequences of overexposure to noise and the precautions required to protect their hearing.

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- B. Employees who work in high noise areas will be informed of the results of the annual noise survey.
- C. Employees who are required to use personal protective equipment because of high noise levels will be trained in the proper use and care of the devices.

6. Control Measures

- A. Engineering controls shall be used whenever feasible to meet the acceptable noise exposure limit.
- B. Until engineering controls are installed or deemed not feasible two types of control measures are available.
- (1) Administrative Control - scheduling work assignments to meet the acceptable noise exposure levels.
- (2) Personal Protective Equipment - permanent personal protective equipment (i.e., ear muffs) may be authorized for the employees. The plant/department is responsible for furnishing equipment and enforcing use.

7. Warning Sign Requirements

- A. A caution sign shall be at entrance and around the periphery of areas where the noise levels exceed 90 dB(A). The sign must include the following:

WARNING
NOISE AREA
MAY CAUSE HEARING LOSS
USE PROPER EAR PROTECTION

- B. All signs shall be in accordance with OSHA's regulations for "CAUTION" signs - black letters on yellow background. Yellow sign blanks are available in the division Stock Department.