

12.3.3 Noise Control Program

Introduction

This program is designed to minimize occupationally-induced hearing loss. Its elements apply specifically to this facility because the potential exists for area noise levels to exceed 80 dBA (L_{eq}).

Regulatory Compliance

This written program details the means by which this facility will meet the requirements of the Dow Chemical Company's *I.H. Program Standards for Hearing Conservation* as well as the OSHA regulations set forth in 1910.95 (*Occupational Noise Exposure*).

Program Administration

Line management at this facility has appointed the *Industrial Hygiene Compliance Specialist* to administer and regularly review this program.

Area Monitoring

The date of the last area noise survey was [month/year].

(select one)

->[As a result, no areas were found to be associated with noise levels at or above 80 dBA (L_{eq}). If process, task, or equipment changes occur which may result in generation of noise levels at or above 80 dBA (L_{eq}), area monitoring will be repeated. Otherwise, no further monitoring is required.]

->As a result of area monitoring, [some/numerous] areas were found to be associated with noise levels at or above 80 dBA (L_{eq}), requiring the need for qualitative personal exposure assessment. (If this applies, then select one of the next two statements also)

-> No areas were found to be associated with noise levels at or above 90 dBA (L_{eq}).

If process, task, or equipment changes occur which may result in generation of noise levels at or above 90 dBA (L_{eq}), area monitoring will be repeated for the affected area(s). Otherwise, repeat area monitoring is due by [date+ 5 years].

-> In addition, [some/numerous] areas were found to be associated with noise levels at or above 90 dBA (L_{eq}). These are listed below as "Hearing Protection" Areas. If process, task, or equipment changes occur which may result in an alteration of this list, area monitoring will be repeated for the affected area(s). Otherwise, repeat area monitoring is due by [date+ 5 years]

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Personal Exposure Assessment

Qualitative personal exposure assessment was performed in [month/year]. Estimated full-shift exposure levels for [the following job assignments/no job assignment] [were/was] greater than [80] dBA, as an [eight]-hour time-weighted average (L_{EX}) (i.e. greater than approximately 10% of the allowable full-shift exposure).

[• Control B Operator]

[• Distribution Technician]

Quantitative personal exposure assessment was performed for the job assignments listed above in [month/year]. Average full-shift exposure levels, were [measured/calculated] at:

[• Control B Operator

85 dBA]

[• Distribution Technician

97 dBA]

Quantitative personal exposure assessment will be repeated for affected job assignments when qualitative assessment indicates a significant change in personal exposure.

Exposure Limits

The Dow Industrial Hygiene Guide (IHG) for noise is 90 dBA "ceiling," which is interpreted as a one-minute equivalent noise level (L_{eq}). [By extension, the maximum allowed full-shift time-weighted average (L_{EX}) exposure is also 90 dBA.]

Noise Hazard Identification

All existing sources of noise greater than 90 dBA (L_{eq}) have been identified via area noise monitoring and are documented by [list method]. Noise hazards arising from new equipment installation, existing equipment modification, or process alteration are identified and documented at the time of the change.

Line management considers the impact of such changes on area noise levels and personal noise exposure prior to implementation. In accordance with Management of Change procedures, the Industrial Hygiene Compliance Specialist is consulted.

Where temporary equipment produces noise levels at or above 90 dBA (L_{eq}), employees are informed of the requirement for hearing protection via temporary signs or verbal communication.

Feasibility Assessments

An assessment is performed by [group/individual/title] according to an established procedure to determine the most feasible method of exposure control. [list procedure here or location of procedural document]

Hearing Protection Areas

Currently, the following areas are associated with noise levels at or above 90 dBA (L_{eq}) and are designated as "Hearing Protection" Areas. These areas are demarcated by signs on all doors that exit into the process area. Residence in these areas for greater than one-minute requires the use of hearing protection devices.

Area	Noise Level (dBA)
Entire Block 46 (Except T/T & T/C Load Rack)	

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Training

All personnel required to wear hearing protection devices have been trained on the appropriate use and maintenance of such devices *using a computer based training program and written reference material.*

Personnel in job assignments listed above with average full-shift exposures of 90 dBA (LEX) or greater receive periodic training on exposure reduction. Training takes place upon assignment to the job classification and at least annually. The next training is due by *December, 1996.*

Hearing Protection Types

Hearing protection devices approved for use in this facility are selected by the *Protective Equipment Team* and approved by the *Industrial Hygiene Services Department.* Approved hearing protection devices must have an *NR* rating of at least 19 and must be able to control exposures to the exposure limits. Approved devices include:

Hearing Protection Devices	Noise Reduction Rating (NR)
Pro-Max Earmuff	25
Howard Leight Earmuff	27
Val-U-Fit Earplug (S, M, L)	25
Expand-O-Fit II Earplug	30
Howard Leight Max Earplug	33

Document Revision History

Below are at least the last three revision of this document but includes all revision within the last 6 months.

Date	By	Description

Signature

Completed by: _____

Date: _____

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