

OCCUPATIONAL NOISE EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

Sample Hearing Conservation Program

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General Purpose:

- To prevent workers from developing a hearing handicap
- A Hearing Conservation Program must be developed when employees are subjected to more than an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) of 85 decibels (dBA).

Hearing Conservation Program:

1. **Monitoring:** Employees must be notified if they are being exposed to greater than 85 decibels (dBA) over a time-weighted average (TWA) in an 8-hour period (85 dBA TWA).
2. **Audiometric Testing:** All employees exposed to 85 dBA TWA must be tested within six months of exposure.
3. **Hearing Protectors:** Engineering controls preferred; personal protective equipment must be made available at no cost to employees.
4. **Employee Training:** Annually for all employees exposed to 85 dBA TWA. Must include information on type and effectiveness of PPE, and the care and fitting required to use them effectively.
5. **Recordkeeping:** Audiometric test records must be kept for the duration of employment. Noise exposure measurements must be kept for two years.

Audiometric test records must include:

- Employee's name
- Employee's job classification
- Date of audiogram
- Examiner's name
- Date of last calibration of audiometer
- Employee's latest noise exposure assessment.

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Date: _____

In accordance with the OSHA Occupational Noise Exposure standard, 29 CFR 1910.95, the following plan has been developed by, _____, (hereafter referred to as "the Company") to eliminate or minimize employee occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials as detailed in the Occupational Noise Exposure standard. The Company has designated _____ as the primary contact person, and _____ as the back up contact person. These individuals are responsible for the maintaining all records and documentation, providing appropriate personal protect equipment (PPE), exposure determinations, and training as required by this standard.

Purpose

The objective of this comprehensive program is to prevent employees from developing hearing loss due to noise exposure. If an employee is exposed to noise levels that cannot be reduced below 85 dBA, the employee is provided with audiometric testing, training, and proper personal protective equipment. This comprehensive Hearing Conservation Program consists of the following four topical areas:

- Written Program
- Noise Abatement
- Audiometric Monitoring
- Employee Training

Copies of this written Occupational Noise Exposure Control Program are available at: _____

Employees that are affected by this program and who are hired to work in areas where noise is above 85 dBA are trained on OSHA's Occupational Noise Exposure Standard and on this company's written Hearing Conservation Program.

Noise Abatement

Engineering controls and administrative controls are utilized to reduce noise levels, when feasible. Noise generating equipment may require procedures such as redesign, isolation, or other alternative processes, where feasible. Typical noise measurements for logging operations can be found in Appendix 1. If noise levels cannot be reduced below 85 dBA by engineering and/or administrative controls, workers use proper personal protective equipment, as dictated by this standard. Hearing protection is available for employees of this company. The types of hearing protection available at this company are listed in Appendix.

Audiometric Monitoring

An audiometric baseline exam is given to all employees who are exposed to noise levels exceeding 85 dBA. Further audiometric exams are given annually to those employees who are exposed to noise levels above the 85 dBA action level. The later audiometric exams are then compared to the baseline exam to ensure that employees are not incurring hearing losses.

If hearing loss does occur, the company will examine the job task and determine if the hearing loss has occurred through increased noise levels in the work area or as a result of a change in the job task. If the employee has not been exposed to increased noise levels, the employee is

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instructed on how to properly use hearing protection and how other tasks performed off the job may be influencing hearing loss. The audiometric testing is arranged by the company and is performed by a qualified audiologist or by a person with audiometric testing certification. Audiometric exams are maintained for the duration of the workers' employment and are confidential. These records are kept on file in the main office. Employees may request and obtain the results of the audiometric testing.

Employee Training

Employee training is the responsibility of this company and is given upon initial employment to those exposed to noise levels of 85 dBA or above and annually thereafter. Training includes the following topics.

- Occupational Noise Exposure Standard (29 CFR 1910.95)
- The company's written Hearing Conservation Program
- Effects of noise on hearing
- Purpose of hearing protection
- Purpose of audiometric testing

Employee responsibility

1. Employees are trained on OSHA's Occupational Noise Exposure Standard (29 CFR 1910.95).
2. They are informed that the company, and its employees, must meet specific requirements of the law for those working in areas where noise levels exceed the action level of 85 dBA.
3. Employees are provided access to a copy of the Occupational Noise Exposure Standard upon request, and questions are answered by the company.
4. A copy of the Occupational Noise Exposure Standard (29 CFR 1910.95) is located in Appendix of this program.
5. Employees are informed that a written Hearing Conservation Program has been developed and implemented by P&G and that a copy of the written Hearing Conservation Program is available from responsible persons listed in this plan.
6. Employees are trained on the proper use of hearing protection and on the limitations of various types of hearing protection.
7. They understand proper use of hearing protection, including precautions that may need to be taken when handling hearing protection.
8. Employees understand where hearing protection can be obtained and that problems with fitting or style should be brought to the attention of the responsible person(s) listed in this plan.
9. Audiometric exams are given to all employees who work in an area where noise levels exceed the action level of 86 dBA. The procedure and the necessity of the exam is explained to all employees included in this Hearing Conservation Program. Employees understand that a baseline exam is given initially and that an audiometric exam is performed annually thereafter.
10. Employee responsibility under this Hearing Conservation Program is explained to all employees involved in the program. This includes responsibility for the wearing and care of the hearing protection they are assigned to use. Failure to properly use the required hearing protection can result in disciplinary actions.
11. The training outline and training records are located in Appendix 1

