



Hearing conservation program for construction workers

- OSHA's Advance notice of proposed rulemaking and request for information and comment.
- OSHA Docket No. H-011G

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Hearing conservation program for construction workers

- OSHA is considering revising the construction noise standards to include a hearing conservation component for the construction industry that provides a similar level of protection to that afforded to workers in general industry.



Hearing conservation program for construction workers

- OSHA asked the public to comment on whether hearing conservation amendment should be applied to the construction industry or if alternative strategies would be easier to implement.

OSHA requirements for the construction

- Protection against the effects of noise exposure shall be provided when the sound levels exceed those shown in Table D-2 when measured on the A-scale of a standard sound level meter at slow response
- In all cases where the sound levels exceed the values shown herein, a continuing, effective hearing conservation program shall be administered.

TABLE D-2 - PERMISSIBLE NOISE EXPOSURES

Sound level duration | dBA slow response

<u>Hrs/day</u>	<u>Decibels (A)</u>
8.....	90
6.....	92
4.....	95
3.....	97
2.....	100 1
1/2.....	102
1.....	105
1/2.....	110 1/4
or less.....	115



Hearing conservation program for general industry

The employer shall establish a hearing conservation program, whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average sound level (TWA) of 85 decibels measured on the A scale (slow response).



Hearing conservation program elements for general industry

- Noise monitoring - surveying the worksite
- Controls for excessive noise
- Baseline and annual audiometry
- Hearing protection device policy
- Employee training on noise hazards
- Recordkeeping
- Program evaluation



OSHA vs. NIOSH

<u>Exposure</u>	<u>OSHA</u>	<u>NIOSH/ACGIH/DOE</u>
■ 8 hr	90	85
■ 6 hr	92	--
■ 4 hr	95	88
■ 3 hr	97	--
■ 2 hr	100	91
■ 1½ hr	102	92
■ 1 hr	105	94
■ ½ hr	110	97
■ ¼ hr	115	100
■ 7.5 min	115	103
■ 1 min	115	112
■ .5 min	115	115
■ less than 1 sec	115	130-140



Task based requirements

- To simplify matters, hearing protection should be required for any operation or equipment use where exposure exceeds 85 dBA at any time.



Development of a list common noise hazards

- Air Grinder 102-104
- Bulldozer-Insulated Cab 85
- Bulldozer-No Muffler 107
- Circular Saw and Hammering 96
- Compactor 108
- Front-End Loaders 85-91
- Jack Hammer 96
- Pneumatic Hammer 110-113



Mandatory requirements

- All employees exposed noise levels of 85 dB and above should following:
 - Baseline and annual audiometry
 - Employee training on noise hazards



Audiometry

- Audiometric testing is crucial to the success of the hearing conservation program since it is the only way to determine whether noise-induced hearing loss is being prevented.
- Audiometric testing is also important because it makes the hearing loss real to people because workers are able to see exactly how much loss has occurred



Training

- The hazards of noise overexposure
- Purpose of hearing protection
- Purpose and procedures of audiometric testing
- attenuation of hearing protectors
- selection, fitting and care of protectors.