

HEARING CONSERVATION WRITTEN PROGRAM HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

All employees exposed to time weighted average (TWA) noise levels of 85 dBA or greater during an eight hour work day are included in this hearing conservation program. Protection against the effects of noise exposure will be provided to these employees. If engineering controls and administrative controls fail to reduce sound levels to below 85 dBA TWA, personal protective equipment will be provided that will reduce the sound levels to those acceptable under the OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.95.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Maintenance Supervisor has the authority and responsibility for the Hearing Conservation Program at the Hibbing Community College. The responsibilities include: the identification of areas or tasks resulting in an 8 hour time weighted average exposure greater than 85 dBA, notification of employees exposed to an 8 hour TWA above 85 dBA of the results of the monitoring, establishing and maintaining an audiometric testing program in accordance with the OSHA regulations and ensuring proper hearing protection is provided when necessary.

MONITORING

When information indicates that an employee's exposure may exceed an 8 hour time weighted average of 85 decibels, a monitoring program will be implemented to identify employees overexposed, and to determine the criteria for selecting proper hearing protection. Monitoring shall be done in accordance with the standards set in the OSHA regulation, and affected employees or their representatives will have the opportunity to observe the monitoring of all employees. It has been determined that performing the following tasks or working around the listed equipment in our company may result in a TWA exposure greater than 85 dBA:

Calibrator: Quest CA-12B (Quest Calibration on 2/19/08)
Sound Level Meter: Quest 2400 Type 2 (Quest Calibration on 2/19/08)
Pre: 110 dBA Post: 110 dBA

Equipment	Max Time	Avg. Time	SLM dBA	Effective 8 hr TWA 3 hr Exposure Moldex FA 12/ Thunder 29 FA 11	Effective 8 hr. TWA 6 hr exposure Moldex FA 12/ Thunder 29 FA 11	Effective 8 hr. TWA 8 hr exposure Moldex FA 12/ Thunder 29 FA 11	Effective 8 hour TWA Dual Protection FA = 17 dBA
Case 1845 C Loader in Cab	6 Hr.	3 Hr.	Max Reading 103 dBA	84dBA TWA 85 dBA TWA	89 dBA TWA 90 dBA TWA	91 dBA TWA 92 dBA TWA (Need Dual > 6 hrs)	86 dBA TWA
Toro 328 Groundmaster Sweeper in cab	8 Hr.	3 Hr.	Max Reading 91 dBA	74 dBA TWA 75 dBA TWA	77 dBA TWA 78 dBA TWA	79 dBA TWA 80 dBA TWA	76 dBA TWA
Toro 325 Groundmaster Sweeper In cab	8 Hr	3 Hr	Max Reading 92 dBA	75 dBA TWA 76 dBA TWA	78 dBA TWA 79 dBA TWA	80 dBA TWA 81 dBA TWA	75 dBA TWA

All of the above readings were the worst case scenario. The dose would be expected to be less than the readings in the table. The hearing protection used for the equipment is more than adequate for the exposures measured. If the Case Loader is used for over 6 hours, dual protection would be required. The Cat V60 B forklift was also monitored; the highest sound pressure reading was 83 dBA. Hearing protection would not be required on the forklift.

AUDIOMETRIC TESTING PROGRAM

Audiometric testing will be made available to all employees covered by this written program, and will be done in accordance with the provisions of OSHA Standard 1910.95(g), (h), and Appendix C of the standard. The following is a summary of the procedure that will be followed at our company.

1. Within 6 months (one year if a mobile van is used) of an employee's first exposure under this standard, a baseline audiogram will be performed. The employee shall be notified of the need to avoid high levels of noise for 14 hours preceding the testing and the use of hearing protection will be required on the job prior to the test when necessary.
2. After the baseline audiogram, the annual audiogram shall be compared to the baseline audiogram to determine if the employee has suffered a Standard Threshold Shift (STS). An STS is defined as a change in the hearing threshold of 10 dB or greater in the 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz in either ear. An allowance for the contribution of aging may be calculated in accordance with Appendix F of the OSHA standard.
3. If a STS has occurred, the following procedure will be implemented:
 - The employee will be informed in writing within 21 days; if it is determined by a physician that the STS is NOT work related, the following steps do not need to be taken.
 - The employee shall be fitted (or refitted) with hearing protection, trained (or retrained) in their use and care, and will be required to use them. We will reevaluate the hearing protection Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) to ensure that it is effective against the exposure.
 - If additional testing is necessary, or if it is suspected that a medical problem is caused or aggravated by wearing hearing protection, the employee will be referred for a clinical audiological or otological exam as appropriate. If an exam is advised for a situation unrelated to hearing protectors, we will inform the employee.

HEARING PROTECTORS

A variety of hearing protection will be available to all employees covered under this program, and training will be provided on their use and care. Hibbing Community College will enforce hearing protection use under the following conditions:

1. Employees performing tasks or working in areas with greater than 90 dBA 8 hour time-weighted average noise exposure, or impulsive or impact noises over 140 dB peak.
2. Employees exposed to greater than 85 dBA 8 hour time-weighted average noise exposure who
 - have not had a baseline audiogram
 - have had a standard threshold shift

The hearing protection used at Hibbing Community College will be selected based on the protector's attenuation compared to the sound levels of the task or area. Hearing protectors selected will attenuate employee exposure to at least an 8 hour TWA of 90 decibels. The attenuation for employees who have experienced a STS will use hearing protectors that attenuate to 85 decibels for an 8-hour TWA.

The adequacy of the hearing protectors used will be re-evaluated whenever there is an increase in exposures indicating that the current hearing protectors no longer provide sufficient protection.

TRAINING

All employees covered under this program will receive hearing conservation training annually. Employees will be informed about the effects of noise on hearing, the purpose of hearing protectors and the advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation of various types. The employees will receive training on the selection, fitting use and care of the hearing protection selected for use at Hibbing Community College. The training will also inform employees about the purpose of audiometric testing, and will explain the test procedures.

RECORDKEEPING

Records of exposure measurements, audiometric test results, and training will be kept in personnel files. The exposure measurements will be kept within this written program. Audiometric test results including the name and job classification of the employee, the date of the audiogram, the examiner's name, calibration records, the most recent noise exposure assessment, and background sound pressure levels in audiometric test rooms, shall be kept in personnel files for the duration of employment. Training records will be kept on a document imaging system for a minimum of 5 years.