

Chapter 27

E & B Oilfield Services Inc.

Company Policy for Occupational Noise Exposure

E & B Oilfield Services Inc. Safety Policy for the prevention of employee exposure to hazardous levels of noise is adopted from the following OSHA regulations:

§1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure

E & B Oilfield Services Inc. has implemented this Policy to ensure that no employee is exposed to noise levels in excess of the action levels as listed in the following regulations. *Danny Abegglen* is the designated supervisor for ensuring the following engineering controls and work practices will be enforced:

- Upon initial hiring, all employees who are exposed to action level noise will be trained in the hazards presented by excessive noise levels in the workplace, and the use and care of hearing protection devices. Training will be repeated annually for each employee and updated to reflect changes in personal protective equipment (PPE) and work processes or requirements. *Danny Abegglen* will make copies of the noise exposure procedures available to affected employees and will also post a copy in the workplace and allow OSHA access to records.
- Hearing protectors are available upon request from *Danny Abegglen* at no cost to all employees exposed to an 8-hr. time-weighted average of 85 decibels. Hearing protection will be replaced as necessary. Each employee will be properly trained in the use, care, and fitting of hearing protectors. *Danny Abegglen* will ensure that hearing protectors are worn. Employees will be given the opportunity to select their hearing protectors from a variety of suitable hearing protectors.
- *E & B Oilfield Services Inc.* will provide a continuing effective hearing conservation program when employees are exposed to sound levels greater than 85 dBs on an 8 hour time-weighted average basis.
- When information indicates that employee exposure may equal/exceed the 8 hr time-weighted avg. of 85 decibels, *Danny Abegglen* will implement a monitoring program to identify employees to be included in the hearing conservation program.
- Employees will be required to wear hearing protection in work areas 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) or, equivalently, a dose of fifty percent.
- *Danny Abegglen* will maintain an audiometric testing program by making audiometric testing available to all employees whose exposures equal or exceed an 8-hr. time-weighted avg. 85 decibels. The program is provided at no cost to employees.
- Audio monitoring will be implemented if it is believed noise levels in work areas are approaching or exceed action level limits. If monitoring results indicate exposures equaling or exceeding safe limits, an employee will be included in a hearing conservation program.

- Within 6 months of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level, *E & B Oilfield Services Inc.* shall establish a valid baseline audiogram against which future audiograms can be compared. When a mobile van is used, the baseline shall be established within 1 yr.
- Testing to establish a baseline audiogram will be preceded by at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise. Hearing protection may be used to meet the requirement. Employees will also be notified to avoid high levels of noise.
- At least annually after obtaining the baseline audiogram, *Danny Abegglen* will obtain a new audiogram for each employee exposed at or above an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels. Each employee's annual audiogram shall be compared to that employee's baseline audiogram to determine if the audiogram is valid and if a standard threshold shift has occurred. If a comparison of the annual audiogram to the baseline audiogram indicates a standard threshold shift, the employee shall be informed of this fact in writing, within 21 days of the determination.
- If a standard threshold shift occurs, use of hearing protection shall be re-evaluated and/or refitted and if necessary a medical evaluation may be required. The following procedures will be implemented:
 - Employees not using hearing protectors will be fitted with hearing protectors, trained in their use and care, and required to use them.
 - Employees already using hearing protectors will be refitted and retrained in the use of hearing protectors and provided with hearing protectors offering greater attenuation if necessary.
 - Employees will be referred for a clinical audiological evaluation or an otological examination, as appropriate, if additional testing is necessary or if it is suspected that a medical pathology of the ear is caused or aggravated by the wearing of hearing protectors.
 - Employees will be informed of the need for an otological examination if a medical pathology of the ear that is unrelated to the use of hearing protectors is suspected.
 - Audiometric evaluation and testing conducted by a licensed physician using the guidelines contained in §1910.95 (g), and is available to all employees whose work requirements equals or exceeds an 8 hr. time-weighted average 85 decibels on a regular basis at no cost to the employee. Hearing protection is available at no cost to all employees upon request from the jobsite foreman or company office.
- *Danny Abegglen* will evaluate hearing protection for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used.
- An accurate record of all audio testing and monitoring will be kept at the company office and maintained as required. Evaluations will be done for suitable hearing protection from the noise levels encountered in the workplace. These records, as well as information on these OSHA regulations and appendices will be available to employees upon request.
- Hearing protection is available at no cost to all employees upon request from the jobsite foreman or company office.

§1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure

a) Protection against the effects of noise exposure shall be provided when the sound levels exceed those shown in Table G-16 when measured on the A scale of a standard sound level meter at slow response. When noise levels are determined by octave band analysis, the equivalent A-weighted sound level may be determined as follows:

Equivalent sound level contours. Octave band sound pressure levels may be converted to the equivalent A-weighted sound level by plotting them on this graph and noting the A-weighted sound level corresponding to the point of highest penetration into the sound level contours. This equivalent A-weighted sound level, which may differ from the actual A-weighted sound level of the noise, is used to determine exposure limits from Table 1.G-16.

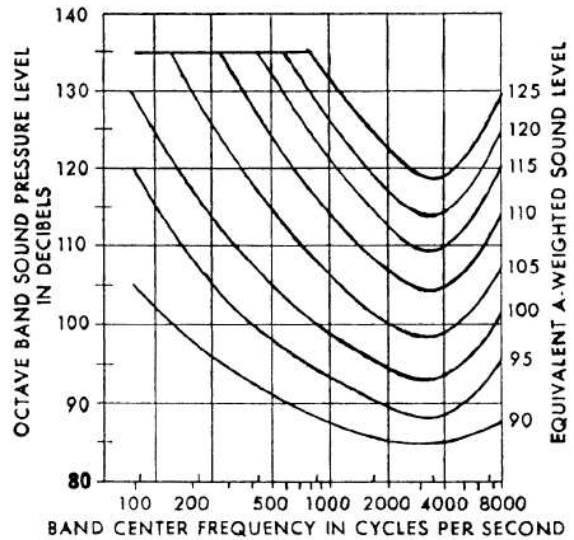


Figure G-9

(b) (1) When employees are subjected to sound exceeding those listed in Table G-16, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels within the levels of Table G-16, personal protective equipment shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels within the levels of the table.

(2) If the variations in noise level involve maxima at intervals of 1 second or less, it is to be considered continuous.

(c) **Hearing conservation program.**

(1) The employer shall administer a continuing, effective hearing conservation program, as described in paragraphs (c) through (o) of this section, 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) or, equivalently, a dose of fifty percent. For purposes of the hearing conservation program, employee noise exposures shall be computed in accordance with Appendix A and Table G-16a, and without regard to any attenuation provided by the use of personal protective equipment.

(2) For purposes of paragraphs (c) through (n) of this section, an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels or a dose of fifty percent shall also be referred to as the action level.

(d) **Monitoring.**

(1) When information indicates that any employee's exposure may equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels, the employer shall develop and implement a monitoring program.

(i) The sampling strategy shall be designed to identify employees for inclusion in the hearing conservation program and to enable the proper selection of hearing protectors.

TABLE G-16—PERMISSIBLE NOISE EXPOSURES¹

Duration per day, hours	Sound level dBA slow response
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1½	102
1	105
½	110
¼ or less	115

¹ When the daily noise exposure is composed of two or more periods of noise exposure of different levels, their combined effect should be considered, rather than the individual effect of each. If the sum of the following fractions: $C_1/T_1 + C_2/T_2 + C_n/T_n$, exceeds unity, then, the mixed exposure should be considered to exceed the limit value. C_n indicates the total time of exposure at a specified noise level, and T_n indicates the total time of exposure permitted at that level.

Exposure to impulsive or impact noise should not exceed 140 dB peak sound pressure level.

(ii) Where circumstances such as high worker mobility, significant variations in sound level, or a significant component of impulse noise make area monitoring generally inappropriate, the employer shall use representative personal sampling to comply with the monitoring requirements of this paragraph unless the employer can show that area sampling produces equivalent results.

(2) (i) All continuous, intermittent and impulsive sound levels from 80 decibels to 130 decibels shall be integrated into the noise measurements.

(ii) Instruments used to measure employee noise exposure shall be calibrated to ensure measurement accuracy.

(3) Monitoring shall be repeated whenever a change in production, process, equipment or controls increases noise exposures to the extent that:

(i) Additional employees may be exposed at or above the action level; or

(ii) The attenuation provided by hearing protectors being used by employees may be rendered inadequate to meet the requirements of paragraph (j) of this section.

(e) **Employee notification.** The employer shall notify each employee exposed at or above an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels of the results of the monitoring.

(f) **Observation of monitoring.** The employer shall provide affected employees or their representatives with an opportunity to observe any noise measurements conducted pursuant to this section.

(g) **Audiometric testing program.**

(1) The employer shall establish and maintain an audiometric testing program as provided in this paragraph by making audiometric testing available to all employees whose exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels.

(2) The program shall be provided at no cost to employees.

(4) All audiograms obtained pursuant to this section shall meet the requirements of Appendix C: Audiometric Measuring Instruments.

(5) **Baseline audiogram.**

(i) Within 6 months of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level, the employer shall establish a valid baseline audiogram against which subsequent audiograms can be compared.

(ii) **Mobile test van exception.** Where mobile test vans are used to meet the audiometric testing obligation, the employer shall obtain a valid baseline audiogram within one year of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level, employees shall wear hearing protectors for any period exceeding six months after first exposure until the baseline audiogram is obtained.

(iii) Testing to establish a baseline audiogram shall be preceded by at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise. Hearing protectors may be used as a substitute for the requirement that baseline audiograms be preceded by 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise.

(iv) The employer shall notify employees of the need to avoid high levels of non-occupational noise exposure during the 14-hour period immediately preceding the audiometric examination.

(6) **Annual audiogram.** At least annually after obtaining the baseline audiogram, the employer shall obtain a new audiogram for each employee exposed at or above an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels.

(7) **Evaluation of audiogram.**

(i) Each employee's annual audiogram shall be compared to that employee's baseline audiogram to determine if the audiogram is valid and if a standard threshold shift as defined in paragraph (g)(10) of this section has occurred. This comparison may be done by a technician.

(ii) If the annual audiogram shows that an employee has suffered a standard threshold shift, the employer may obtain a retest within 30 days and consider the results of the retest as the annual audiogram.

(iii) The audiologist, otolaryngologist, or physician shall review problem audiograms and shall determine whether there is a need for further evaluation. The employer shall provide to the person performing this evaluation the following information:

(A) A copy of the requirements for hearing conservation as set forth in paragraphs (c) through (n) of this section;

(B) The baseline audiogram and most recent audiogram of the employee to be evaluated;

(C) Measurements of background sound pressure levels in the audiometric test room as required in Appendix D: Audiometric Test Rooms.

(D) Records of audiometer calibrations required by paragraph (h)(5) of this section.

(8) **Follow-up procedures.**

(i) If a comparison of the annual audiogram to the baseline audiogram indicates a standard threshold shift as defined in paragraph (g)(10) of this section has occurred, the employee shall be informed of this fact in writing, within 21 days of the determination.

(ii) Unless a physician determines that the standard threshold shift is not work related or aggravated by occupational noise exposure, the employer shall ensure that the following steps are taken when a standard threshold shift occurs:

(A) Employees not using hearing protectors shall be fitted with hearing protectors, trained in their use and care, and required to use them.

(B) Employees already using hearing protectors shall be refitted and retrained in the use of hearing protectors and provided with hearing protectors offering greater attenuation if necessary.

(C) The employee shall be referred for a clinical audiological evaluation or an otological examination, as appropriate, if additional testing is necessary or if the employer suspects that a medical pathology of the ear is caused or aggravated by the wearing of hearing protectors.

(D) The employee is informed of the need for an otological examination if a medical pathology of the ear that is unrelated to the use of hearing protectors is suspected.

(iii) If subsequent audiometric testing of an employee whose exposure to noise is less than an 8-hour TWA of 90 decibels indicates that a standard threshold shift is not persistent, the employer:

(A) Shall inform the employee of the new audiometric interpretation; and

(B) May discontinue the required use of hearing protectors for that employee.

(9) Revised baseline. An annual audiogram may be substituted for the baseline audiogram when, in the judgment of the audiologist, otolaryngologist or physician who is evaluating the audiogram:

(i) The standard threshold shift revealed by the audiogram is persistent; or

(ii) The hearing threshold shown in the annual audiogram indicates significant improvement over the baseline audiogram.

(10) Standard threshold shift.

(i) As used in this section, a standard threshold shift is a change in hearing threshold relative to the baseline audiogram of an average of 10 dB or more at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz in either ear.

(ii) In determining whether a standard threshold shift has occurred, allowance may be made for the contribution of aging (presbycusis) to the change in hearing level by correcting the annual audiogram according to the procedure described in appendix F: *Calculation and Application of Age Correction to Audiograms*.

(h) Audiometric test requirements.

(1) Audiometric tests shall be pure tone, air conduction, hearing threshold examinations, with test frequencies including as a minimum 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, and 6000 Hz. Tests at each frequency shall be taken separately for each ear.

(2) Audiometric tests shall be conducted with audiometers (including microprocessor audiometers) that meet the specifications of, and are maintained and used in accordance with, American National Standard Specification for Audiometers, S3.6-1969, which is incorporated by reference as specified in §1910.6.

(3) Pulsed-tone and self-recording audiometers, if used, shall meet the requirements specified in Appendix C: Audiometric Measuring Instruments.

(4) Audiometric examinations shall be administered in a room meeting the requirements listed in Appendix D: Audiometric Test Rooms.

(5) Audiometer calibration.

(i) The functional operation of the audiometer shall be checked before each day's use by testing a person with known, stable hearing thresholds, and by listening to the audiometer's output to make sure that the output is free from distorted or unwanted sounds. Deviations of 10 decibels or greater require an acoustic calibration.

(ii) Audiometer calibration shall be checked acoustically at least annually in accordance with Appendix E: Acoustic Calibration of Audiometers. Test frequencies below 500 Hz and above 6000 Hz may be omitted from this check. Deviations of 15 decibels or greater require an exhaustive calibration.

(iii) An exhaustive calibration shall be performed at least every two years in accordance with sections 4.1.2; 4.1.3.; 4.1.4.3; 4.2; 4.4.1; 4.4.2; 4.4.3; and 4.5 of the American National Standard Specification for Audiometers, S3.6-1969. Test frequencies below 500 Hz and above 6000 Hz may be omitted from this calibration.

(i) Hearing protectors.

(1) Employers shall make hearing protectors available to all employees exposed to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels or greater at no cost to the employees. Hearing protectors shall be replaced as necessary.

(2) Employers shall ensure that hearing protectors are worn:

(i) By an employee who is required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section to wear personal protective equipment; and

(ii) By any employee who is exposed to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels or greater, and who:

(A) Has not yet had a baseline audiogram established pursuant to paragraph (g)(5)(ii); or

(B) Has experienced a standard threshold shift.

(3) Employees shall be given the opportunity to select their hearing protectors from a variety of suitable hearing protectors provided by the employer.

(4) The employer shall provide training in the use and care of all hearing protectors provided to employees.

(5) The employer shall ensure proper initial fitting and supervise the correct use of all hearing protectors.

(j) Hearing protector attenuation.

(1) The employer shall evaluate hearing protector attenuation for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used. The employer shall use one of the evaluation methods described in **Appendix B: Methods for Estimating the Adequacy of Hearing Protection Attenuation.**

(2) Hearing protectors must attenuate employee exposure at least to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 90 decibels as required by paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) For employees who have experienced a standard threshold shift, hearing protectors must attenuate employee exposure to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels or below.

(4) The adequacy of hearing protector attenuation shall be re-evaluated whenever employee noise exposures increase to the extent that the hearing protectors provided may no longer provide adequate attenuation. The employer shall provide more effective hearing protectors where necessary.

(k) Training program.

(1) The employer shall institute a training program for all employees who are exposed to noise at or above an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels, and shall ensure employee participation in such program.

(2) The training program shall be repeated annually for each employee included in the hearing conservation program. Information provided in the training program shall be updated to be consistent with changes in protective equipment and work processes.

(3) The employer shall ensure that each employee is informed of the following:

(i) The effects of noise on hearing;

(ii) The purpose of hearing protectors, the advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation of various types, and instructions on selection, fitting, use, and care; and

(iii) The purpose of audiometric testing, and an explanation of the test procedures.

(l) Access to information and training materials.

(1) The employer shall make available to affected employees or their representatives copies of this standard and shall also post a copy in the workplace.

(2) The employer shall provide to affected employees any informational materials pertaining to the standard that are supplied to the employer by the Assistant Secretary.

(3) The employer shall provide, upon request, all materials related to the employer's training and education program pertaining to this standard to the Assistant Secretary and the Director.

(m) Recordkeeping.

(1) Exposure measurements. The employer shall maintain an accurate record of all employee exposure measurements required by paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) Audiometric tests.

(i) The employer shall retain all employee audiometric test records obtained pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section:

(ii) This record shall include:

(A) Name and job classification of the employee;

(B) Date of the audiogram;

(C) The examiner's name;

(D) Date of the last acoustic or exhaustive calibration of the audiometer; and

(E) Employee's most recent noise exposure assessment.

(F) The employer shall maintain accurate records of the measurements of the background sound pressure levels in audiometric test rooms.

(3) Record retention. The employer shall retain records required in this paragraph (m) for at least the following periods.

(i) Noise exposure measurement records shall be retained for two years.

(ii) Audiometric test records shall be retained for the duration of the affected employee's employment.

(4) Access to records. All records required by this section shall be provided upon request to employees, former employees, representatives designated by the individual employee, and the Assistant Secretary. The provisions of 29 CFR 1910.20(a)-(e) and (g)-(i) apply to access to records under this section.

(5) Transfer of records. If the employer ceases to do business, the employer shall transfer to the successor employer all records required to be maintained by this section, and the successor employer shall retain them for the remainder of the period prescribed in paragraph (m)(3) of this section.

APPENDIX A to §1910.95 — Noise Exposure Computation

This Appendix is Mandatory

I. Computation of Employee Noise Exposure.

(1) Noise dose is computed using Table G-16a as follows:

(i) When the sound level, L, is constant over the entire work shift, the noise dose, D, in percent, is given by: $D = 100 C/T$ where C is the total length of the work day, in hours, and T is the reference duration corresponding to the measured sound level, L, as given in Table G-16a or by the formula shown as a footnote to that table.

(ii) When the workshift noise exposure is composed of two or more periods of noise at different levels, the total noise dose over the work day is given by: $D = 100 (C_1/T_1 + C_2/T_2 + \dots + C_n/T_n)$,

where C_n indicates the total time of exposure at a specific noise level, and T_n indicates the reference duration for that level as given by Table G-16a.

(2) The eight-hour time-weighted average sound level (TWA), in decibels, may be computed from the dose, in percent, by means of the formula: $TWA = 16.61 \log_{10} (D/100) + 90$. For an eight-hour workshift with the noise level constant over the entire shift, the TWA is equal to the measured sound level.

(3) A table relating dose and TWA is given in Section II.

<i>A-weighted sound level, L (decibel)</i>	<i>Reference duration, T (hour)</i>	<i>A-weighted sound level, L (decibel)</i>	<i>Reference duration, T (hour)</i>
80	32	106	0.87
81	27.9	107	0.76
82	24.3	108	0.66
83	21.1	109	0.57
84	18.4	110	0.5
85	16	111	0.44
86	13.9	112	0.38
87	12.1	113	0.33
88	10.6	114	0.29
89	9.2	115	0.25
90	8	116	0.22
91	7.0	117	0.19
92	6.1	118	0.16
93	5.3	119	0.14
94	4.6	120	0.125
95	4	121	0.11
96	3.5	122	0.095
97	3.0	123	0.082
98	2.6	124	0.072
99	2.3	125	0.063
100	2	126	0.054
101	1.7	127	0.047
102	1.5	128	0.041
103	1.3	129	0.036
104	1.1	130	0.031
105	1		

In the above table the reference duration, T, is computed by

$$T = \frac{8}{2^{(L-90)/5}}$$

where L is the measured A-weighted sound level.

II. Conversion Between "Dose" and "8-Hour Time-Weighted Average" Sound Level.

Compliance with paragraphs (c)-(r) of this regulation is determined by the amount of exposure to noise in the workplace. The amount of such exposure is usually measured with an audio dosimeter which gives a readout in terms of "dose." In order to better understand the requirements of the amendment, dosimeter readings can be converted to an "8-hour time-weighted average sound level." (TWA).

In order to convert the reading of a dosimeter into TWA, see Table A-1, below. This table applies to dosimeters that are set by the manufacturer to calculate dose or percent exposure according to the relationships in Table G-16a. So, for example, a dose of 91 percent over an eight hour day results in a TWA of 89.3 dB, and, a dose of 50 percent corresponds to a TWA of 85 dB.

If the dose as read on the dosimeter is less than or greater than the values found in Table A-1, the TWA may be calculated by using the formula: $TWA = 16.61 \log_{10} (D/100) + 90$ where TWA = 8-hour time-weighted average sound level and D = accumulated dose in percent exposure.

Table A-1 - Conversion from "Percent Noise Exposure" or "Dose" to "8-hour Time-Weighted Average Sound Level" (TWA)

Dose or percent noise exposure	TWA	Dose or percent noise exposure	TWA	Dose or percent noise exposure	TWA	Dose or percent noise exposure	TWA
10	73.4	104	90.3	260	96.9	640	103.4
15	76.3	105	90.4	270	97.2	650	103.5
20	78.4	106	90.4	280	97.4	660	103.6
25	80.0	107	90.5	290	97.7	670	103.7
30	81.3	108	90.6	300	97.9	680	103.8
35	82.4	109	90.6	310	98.2	690	103.9
40	83.4	110	90.7	320	98.4	700	104.0
45	84.2	111	90.8	330	98.6	710	104.1
50	85.0	112	90.8	340	98.8	720	104.2
55	85.7	113	90.9	350	99.0	730	104.3
60	86.3	114	90.9	360	99.2	740	104.4
65	86.9	115	91.1	370	99.4	750	104.5
70	87.4	116	91.1	380	99.6	760	104.6
75	87.9	117	91.1	390	99.8	770	104.7
80	88.4	118	91.2	400	100.0	780	104.8
81	88.5	119	91.3	410	100.2	790	104.9
82	88.6	120	91.3	420	100.4	800	105.0
83	88.7	125	91.6	430	100.5	810	105.1
84	88.7	130	91.9	440	100.7	820	105.2
85	88.8	135	92.2	450	100.8	830	105.3
86	88.9	140	92.4	460	101.0	840	105.4
87	89.0	145	92.7	470	101.2	850	105.4
88	89.1	150	92.9	480	101.3	860	105.5
89	89.2	155	93.2	490	101.5	870	105.6
90	89.2	160	93.4	500	101.6	880	105.7
91	89.3	165	93.6	510	101.8	890	105.8
92	89.4	170	93.8	520	101.9	900	105.8
93	89.5	175	94.0	530	102.0	910	105.9
94	89.6	180	94.2	540	102.2	920	106.0
95	89.6	185	94.4	550	102.3	930	106.1
96	89.7	190	94.6	560	102.4	940	106.2
97	89.8	195	94.8	570	102.6	950	106.2
98	89.9	200	95.0	580	102.7	960	106.3
99	89.9	210	95.4	590	102.8	970	106.4
100	90.0	220	95.7	600	102.9	980	106.5
101	90.1	230	96.0	610	103.0	990	106.5
102	90.1	240	96.3	620	103.2	999	106.6
103	90.2	250	96.6	630	103.3		

APPENDIX B to §1910.95

Methods for Estimating the Adequacy of Hearing Protector Attenuation

This Appendix is Mandatory

For employees who have experienced a significant threshold shift, hearing protector attenuation must be sufficient to reduce employee exposure to a TWA of 85 dB. Employers must select one of the following methods by which to estimate the adequacy of hearing protector attenuation.

The most convenient method is the Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to EPA regulation, the NRR must be shown on the hearing protector package. The NRR is then related to an individual worker's noise environment in order to assess the adequacy of the attenuation of a given hearing protector. This Appendix describes four methods of using the NRR to determine whether a particular hearing protector provides adequate protection within a given exposure environment. Selection among the four procedures is dependent upon the employer's noise measuring instruments.

Instead of using the NRR, employers may evaluate the adequacy of hearing protector attenuation by using one of the three methods developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which are described in the "List of Personal Hearing Protectors and Attenuation Data," HEW Publication No. 76-120, 1975, pages 21-37. These methods are known as NIOSH methods #1, #2 and #3. The NRR described below is a simplification of NIOSH method #2. The most complex method is NIOSH method #1, which is probably the most accurate method since it uses the largest amount of spectral information from the individual employee's noise environment. As in the case of the NRR method described below, if one of the NIOSH methods is used, the selected method must be applied to an individual's noise environment to assess the adequacy of the attenuation. Employers should be careful to take a sufficient number of measurements in order to achieve a representative sample for each time segment.

NOTE: The employer must remember that calculated attenuation values reflect realistic values only to the extent that the protectors are properly fitted and worn. When using the NRR to assess hearing protector adequacy, one of the following methods must be used:

- (i) When using a dosimeter that is capable of C-weighted measurements:
 - (A) Obtain the employee's C-weighted dose for the entire workshift, and convert to TWA (see App A, II).
 - (B) Subtract the NRR from the C-weighted TWA to obtain the estimated A-weighted TWA under the ear protector.
- (ii) When using a dosimeter that is not capable of C-weighted measurements, the following method may be used:
 - (A) Convert the A-weighted dose to TWA (see Appendix A).
 - (B) Subtract 7 dB from the NRR.
 - (C) Subtract the remainder from the A-weighted TWA to obtain the estimated A-weighted TWA under the ear protector.
- (iii) When using a sound level meter set to the A-weighting network:
 - (A) Obtain the employee's A-weighted TWA.
 - (B) Subtract 7 dB from the NRR, and subtract the remainder from the A-weighted TWA to obtain the estimated A-weighted TWA under the ear protector.
- (iv) When using a sound level meter set on the C-weighting network:
 - (A) Obtain a representative sample of the C-weighted sound levels in the employee's environment.
 - (B) Subtract the NRR from the C-weighted average sound level to obtain the estimated A-weighted TWA under the ear protector.
- (v) When using area monitoring procedures and a sound level meter set to the A-weighting network:
 - (A) Obtain a representative sound level for the area in question.
 - (B) Subtract 7 dB from the NRR and subtract the remainder from the A-weighted sound level for that area.
- (vi) When using area monitoring procedures and a sound level meter set to the C-weighting network:
 - (A) Obtain a representative sound level for the area in question.
 - (B) Subtract the NRR from the C-weighted sound level for that area.