

Hearing Conservation

Introduction:

Noise induced hearing loss is the most common occupational hazard for workers and is 100% preventable. OSHA's Hearing Conservation Program is designed to protect workers with significant occupational noise exposures from hearing impairment, and involves noise level monitoring to identify all noise at or above 85dBA.

Operating many sources of equipment at work including a forklift, a circular saw or working near a generator, requires the employee to wear the appropriate hearing protection, and participate in a hearing conservation program.

Discussion Points:

- What is Occupational Noise Exposure?
- Identify Potential Sources of Noise Exposure
- How are Noise Levels Measured?
- Required Monitoring and Audiograms
- How to Prevent Hearing Loss at Work?

Discussion:

Monitoring must be performed when there is an increase in production or equipment is added that could increase noise level, and Audiograms are required every year to identify if there has been a hearing loss.

Noise control requires the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which includes earplugs and ear muffs, and must be used in compliance with OSHA's standard 29 CFR 1910.132 and all other applicable health and safety standards along with user instructions, warnings and limitations that accompany the PPE used while at work. If you don't protect your hearing, you will lose it.

As always, be safe out there!

