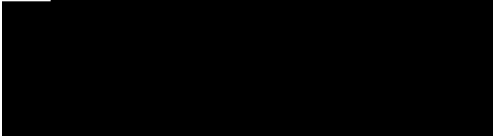




Hearing Conservation Program

Rev 1



APPROVAL

Hearing Conservation Program

1.0 Purpose

1.1

3.2 Department Managers

3.2.1 Ensure that noise control is considered when procuring equipment,

the hearing conservation program, to evaluate noise sources for noise controls, and to enable proper selection of hearing protectors.

4.2.1.1 EHS will identify and evaluate applicable areas and departments on campus to determine whether the noise exposure level for employees working in these areas is below 85 dBA on an 8-hour time-weighted average.

4.2.1.2 Any employees who believe they are working in an environment at or above the action level should notify EHS for an evaluation. Common indications of overexposure to noise are temporary hearing loss and muffled speech, ringing in the ears after leaving the work area, or difficulty hearing normal speech in the work area.

4.2.1.3 The employee can request a noise survey by informing his/her supervisor, who will submit a written request to EHS.

4.2.2 Initially, survey readings will be taken of the work locations and/or equipment. When information indicates that the employee's exposure may equal or exceed a TWA of 85 dBA, either area or personal monitoring will be done. All continuous, intermittent and impulsive sound levels from 80 to 130 decibels will be included in the computation.

4.2.3 Monitoring will be conducted or repeated whenever there is a change in process, equipment or controls that increase the employee's noise exposure, such that the TWA may be at or exceeding 85 dBA (the action level) or the hearing protectors being provided may no longer be adequate.

4.2.4 EHS will inform each employee exposed at or above the action level the results of the monitoring.

4.3 Audiometric Testing

4.3.1 Audiometric testing will be conducted annually by a qualified physician or certified technician at St. Rose Occupational Health clinic.

4.3.2 The results will be made available to the employees.

4.3.3 The employee's annual audiograms will be compared with the baseline audiogram to determine if there is a standard threshold shift. An audiologist, otolaryngologist or physician will review problem audiograms to determine whether further evaluation or actions are required.

4.3.4 If the employees suffer a standard threshold shift, EHS will fit or refit them with hearing protectors and will train them on the proper storage, maintenance and usage for the protectors. If necessary, the employees will be provided with hearing protectors with greater attenuation.

4.3.5 New employees who are affected by the program will be scheduled for the baseline audiogram within 30 days of their assignment.

4.4 Hearing Protections

4.4.1 Employees must wear hearing protections when:

4.4.1.1 They are exposed to a sound level of 85 dBA or greater.

4.4.1.2 They have had a standard threshold shift in hearing.

4.4.2 To insure that the employees can get a good fit, they will be given the opportunity to select hearing protectors from a variety of suitable hearing protectors provided by EHS.

4.4.3 Hearing protectors must attenuate the employee exposure to at least a TWA of 90 decibels and to a TWA of at least 85 decibels for employees who have experienced a standard threshold shift.

4.4.4 The adequacy of the hearing protector attenuation will be reevaluated whenever employee noise exposures increase such that the hearing protectors provided may no longer provide adequate attenuation.

5.0 Training Program

5.1 Training will be provided annually to employees whose noise exposure levels equal or exceed a TWA of 85 dBA. The training will include the following information:

5.1.1 The effects of noise on hearing.

5.1.2 The purpose and effectiveness of hearing protections (advanooiess o,

7.0 Controlling Noise Exposure

Appendix A

Permissible Noise Exposure

Sound Level (dBA)	Permitted Duration per Workday	
	<i>Hours-minutes</i>	<i>Hours</i>
90	8-0	8
91	6-58	6.96
92	6-4	6.06
93	5-17	5.28
94	4-36	4.6
95	4	4
96	3-29	3.48
97	3-2	3.03
98	2-38	2.63
99	2-18	2.3
100	2	2
101	1-44	1.73
102	1-31	1.52
103	1-19	1.32
104	1-9	1.15
105	1	1
106	52	0.86
107	46	0.76
108	40	0.66
109	34	0.56
110	30	0.5
111	26	0.43
112	23	0.38
113	20	0.33
114	17	0.28
115	15	0.25

Document History

Document Revision	Date	Prepared by:	Approved by:	Comment
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