Excessive noise at work causes hearing loss in many different industries. The OSHA requirement for a hearing conservation program is based on an 8-hour time weighted average. This means that if an individual has intermittent noise exposure throughout the day, the low noise exposure times are averaged in with the higher noise exposure times. If the average is less than 85 dBA, then the company does not have to provide a hearing conservation program which would include education, provision of hearing protective devices and audiometric testing. Many industries have noisy equipment and exposures but because of the time-weighted average requirement, do not meet the OSHA cut off of 85 dBA. Because we see hearing loss among workers in industries that are not required to have a hearing conservation program, we have developed educational brochures to distribute to workers in some of these industries.

Brochures have been developed for auto repairers, farmers and lawn care workers. The brochures show pictures of equipment in each of these industries and the noise levels when using them (see figures 1-3). Additionally the brochures tell individuals how they can protect their hearing and how noise exposure is cumulative so that even if they have hearing loss they should protect what hearing they still have.

These brochures are available on our website www.oem.msu.edu and we can also provide you copies to distribute. Contact Amy Sims at amy.sims@ht.msu.edu or at 517-353-1846. The brochure for lawn care workers would also be of use for the homeowner, since much of this same equipment is used by people around their own houses.

The other way you can help is to let us know about facilities which you think meet the OSHA requirement for hearing conservation programs but your patients tell you they are not receiving the required components such as education, hearing protective devices and/or audiometric testing. Please email us at odreport@ht.msu.edu or call us at 1-800-446-7805 with information about companies that you suspect should but are not providing a hearing conservation program.

**The main requirements of the Occupational Noise Exposure standard**

The MIOSHA occupational noise exposure standard (Rules R 325.60101 through R 325.60128) contains requirements for implementing a Hearing Conservation Program when employees’ exposures are at or above the “action level” (AL) of 85 dBA. This limit is expressed as an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA8).

When employee exposures exceed the “permissible noise exposure limit” (PNE) of 90 dBA TWA8, the employer must implement feasible administrative (i.e. work practice, employee rotation) and/or engineering controls to reduce the exposures to less than 90 dBA TWA8. Engineering controls are defined as any modification or replacements of equipment or related physical change at the noise source or along the transmission path (with the exception of hearing protectors) that reduces the noise level.
Did you know that Auto Repair Workers are at high risk for occupational hearing loss?

** MIOSHA Seminar Announcement **

**Title:** Audiometric Testing—Ensuring MIOSHA Compliance  
**Date:** March 13, 2008  
**Agenda:**

- Provide an overview of Part 380. Occupational Noise  
- Introduce and discuss the required elements of a Hearing Conservation Program  
- Identify the most frequently cited elements of the Hearing Conservation Program  
- Discuss the methods for audiometric testing, background sound pressure levels, baselines and revised baselines, and calculating STSs  
- Learn the proper recording and reporting requirements for STSs on your MIOSHA 300 Log

View Other MIOSHA Seminars at: [http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-11407-40999--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-11407-40999--,00.html)
Did you know that FARMERS suffer more HEARING LOSS than other occupational groups?

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Michigan Law Requires the Reporting of Known or Suspected Occupational NIHL

1. A history of significant exposure to noise
2. A TTS of 20 dB or more in either ear at 6000 Hz, 8000 Hz, or 10000 Hz, or 3000 Hz, 4000 Hz, or 6000 Hz, or 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, or 2000 Hz, or 6000 Hz or 9000 Hz
3. A fixed loss.

*Suggested definitions: a 25 dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of: 500, 1000 & 2000 Hz; or 1000, 2000 & 3000 Hz; or 3000, 4000 & 6000 Hz; or a 15 dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of 3000 & 4000 Hz.

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Address service requested.

In this issue:
- v10n3: Noisy Work But No Workplace Hearing Conservation Program