

Now Hear This . . .



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Noisy Work But No Workplace Hearing Conservation Program

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?



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117 West Fee Hall
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85 dB(A)
 Shopvac



95 dB(A)
 Electric Drill



90 dB(A)
 Disk Sander



90 dB(A)
 Impact Wrench



110 dB(A)
 Auto Horn

190 dB(A)
 Running Engine



**** MIOSHA Seminar Announcement ****

Title: Audiometric Testing—Ensuring MIOSHA Compliance

Date: March 13, 2008

On-Line Registration: http://www.trainingmatrix.com/macomb/main/resources.lp?manufacturers_id=3086

Agenda:

- ✓ Provide and 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>

Occupational Hearing Loss Among Lawncare Workers



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120 dB(A)
Hedge Trimmer



120 dB(A)
Chain Saw



110 dB(A)
Leaf Blower



100 dB(A)
Woodchipper



100 dB(A)
Lawn Tractor



100 dB(A)
Bench Grinder



110 dB(A)
Grain Dryer

Did you know that **FARMERS** suffer more **HEARING LOSS** than other occupational groups?



90 dB(A)
Harvester



100 dB(A)
Tractor without Sound proof cab



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Now Hear This...

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Address service requested.

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Conservation Program

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1. A history of significant exposure to noise at work; AND
2. A STS of 10 dB or more in either ear at an average of 2000, 3000 & 4000 Hz. And the employee's total hearing level is 25 dB or more at the same three frequencies. OR
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.

Suggested Criteria for Reporting Occupational NIHL

Internet
www.oem.msu.edu
E-Mail
ODREPORT@ht.msu.edu
FAX
517-432-3606
Telephone
1-800-446-7805
Mail
MIOSHA-MTS Division
P.O. Box 30649
Lansing, MI 48909-8149

Michigan Law Requires the
Reporting of Known or Suspected
Occupational NIHL
Reporting can be done by:

Project SENSOR Staff
*At the Michigan Occupational
Safety & Health Administration
(MIOSHA)*
Douglas J. Kalinowski, Director MIOSHA
Project SENSOR, Co-Director
John Peck, M.S., Director MTS Division
Byron Panasuk, I.H.
Project SENSOR Specialist
*At Michigan State University—
College of Human Medicine*
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