

Now Hear This . . .



Volume 12, No. 4

Winter 2009-2010

FINAL ISSUE OF *NOW HEAR THIS*...

Due to budget constraints we are suspending the publication of the “Now Hear This...” newsletter. This newsletter has been published quarterly since 1998. Topics over the years included: the prevalence of hearing loss in Michigan; sources of noise exposure in different settings, ranging from construction to concert halls; the association of noise and blood pressure; effects of noise exposure on the fetus; and interventions to reduce noise induced hearing loss. Previous issues of the newsletter can be found at: www.oem.msu.edu.

IMPORTANT: The suspension of this newsletter **does not affect Michigan law** which requires the reporting of work-related noise induced hearing loss, along with the audiogram, to the state within 10 days of the identification of the condition. If any part of the hearing loss is related to work, it must be reported. We encourage all health care professionals to remain in compliance with the law. More information about how to report, including via e-mail and through our web site, can be found at: www.oem.msu.edu.

We’d like to thank our readers who have contacted us over the 11 years we’ve published this newsletter—your feedback and interest kept us writing.

We encourage everyone to continue to comply with the State regulation to report work-related noise induced hearing loss. We will continue to compile the reports we receive and initiate intervention activity based on these reports. Readers will continue to be able to reach us at ODreport@ht.msu.edu or our toll free number 1-800-446-7805.

AN ADDITIONAL JOB THAT REQUIRES A MINIMUM LEVEL OF HEARING

One of the readers of the Fall 2009 “Now Hear This. . .” newsletter wrote to tell us there was an additional job, locomotive engineer, that required a minimum level of hearing. For a listing of all the other jobs requiring a minimum level of hearing see our Fall 2009 newsletter at www.oem.msu.edu.

Locomotive Engineers:

go to <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/CFR/retrieve.html> and search for: **49 CFR 240.121**

The Federal Railroad Administration requires a hearing evaluation for locomotive engineers:

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, each person shall have hearing acuity that meets or exceeds the following thresholds when tested by use of an audiometric device (calibrated to American National Standard Specification for Audiometers, S3.6-1969): the person does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500Hz, 1,000Hz, and 2,000Hz with or without use of a hearing aid.

An individual not meeting the above requirement is entitled to retesting and review by a medical examiner.

The hearing evaluation is required every three years.

Now Hear This...

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College of Human Medicine
117 West Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1316
Phone (517) 353-1846

Address service requested.

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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
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