#### 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 <a href="www.oem.msu.edu">www.oem.msu.edu</a> and we can also provide you copies to distribute. Contact Amy Sims at <a href="mailto:amy.sims@ht.msu.edu">amy.sims@ht.msu.edu</a> 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 <a href="mailto:odreport@ht.msu.edu">odreport@ht.msu.edu</a> 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?





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

II7 West Fee Hall East Lansing, Michigan 48824 www.oem.msu.edu



#### \*\* MIOSHA Seminar Announcement \*\*

Title: Audiometric Testing—Ensuring MIOSHA Compliance

Date: March 13, 2008

On-Line Registration: <a href="http://www.trainingmatrix.com/macomb/main/resources.lp?manufacturers\_id=3086">http://www.trainingmatrix.com/macomb/main/resources.lp?manufacturers\_id=3086</a>
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: <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-11407-40999--">http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-11407-40999--</a>,00.html

## Occupational Hearing Loss Among Lawncare Workers

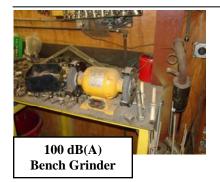


MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



100 dB(A)

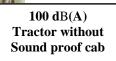
**Lawn Tractor** 





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







MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Now Hear This...

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

#### Address service requested.

In this issue:

v10n3: Noisy Work But No Workplace Hearing Conservation Program

at an average of 3000 &  $4000~\mathrm{Hz}.$ 

\*.ssol bəxif A

at work; AND

7

Ţ.

6000 Hz; or a 15 dB or greater loss in either ear

Az, or 1000, 2000 & 3000 Hz, or 3000, 4000 &

either ear at an average of: 500, 1000 & 2000

\*Suggested definitions: a 25 dB or greater loss in

or more at the same three frequencies. OR

the employee's total hearing level is 25 dB

average of 2000, 3000 & 4000 Hz. And

A STS of 10 dB or more in either ear at an

A history of significant exposure to noise

Occupational MIHL

Suggested Criteria for Reporting

Lansing, MI 48909-8149

P.O. Box 30649

noisivid STM-AH2OIM

**IisM** 

I-800-446-7805

Lelephone

217-432-3606

FAX

ODREPORT@ht.msu.edu

E-Mail

ubə.usm.mso.www

Internet

Reporting can be done by:

Occupational MIHL Reporting of Known or Suspected

Michigan Law Requires the

Printed on recycled paper.

#### Safety & Health Administration At the Michigan Occupational

### (VHSOIW)

Project SENSOR Staff

Project SENSOR Specialist Byron Panasuk, I.H. John Peck, M.S., Director MTS Division Project SENSOR, Co-Director Douglas J. Kalinowski, Director MIOSHA

#### College of Human Medicine At Michigan State University-

Lindsay Anderson Patient Interviewers: Ruth VanderWaals Тгасу Сагеу Project SENSOR Office Staff: Now Hear This..., Editor Project SENSOR NIHL Coordinator Amy Sims, B.S. Project SENSOR Coordinator Mary Jo Reilly, M.S. Project SENSOR, Co-Director Professor of Medicine Kenneth D. Rosenman, M.D.

Amy Krizek

Shannon Rochl smailliW abnamA Francisco Terrazas

#### Advisory Board

Michigan Oto-Laryngological Society Jeffrey Weingarten, M.D. Central Michigan University Better Hearing Michael Stewart, Ph.D. University of Michigan Constance Spak, M.A., CCC-A Michigan State University Jerry Punch, Ph.D. Hearing Association Michigan Speech-Language-Greg Flamme, PhD., Representative Wayne State University Patricia Brogan, Ph.D. Nurses' Association Michigan Occupational Phyllis Berryman, RN

Suggestions and comments are welcome. (MIOSHA) and is available at no cost. Medicine with funding from the Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration Michigan State University-College of Human Now Hear This is published quarterly by

East Lansing, MI 48824-1316 117 West Fee Hall MSU-CHM 9481-858 (712)