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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
DOUGLAS KALINOWSKI  
DIRECTOR

STEVEN H. HILFINGER  
DIRECTOR

To: Michigan Audiologists

The state needs your assistance in preventing work-related noise induced hearing loss. Only with your help can we determine the number of people with hearing loss and the source of the noise exposure.

The enclosed material includes an instruction sheet (gives some background on Code Requirements and provides guidance on completing the report form), occupational disease report form, and the various ways to report. This has been mailed to assist you in your compliance with Part 56 of the Michigan Public Health Code which requires audiologists, physicians, hospitals, clinics, and employers to report all known or suspected cases of occupational diseases. As a result of Executive Orders No. 1996-1, 1996-2, and 2003-18, the responsibility for implementing Part 56 of the Michigan Public Health Code was transferred to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

LARA has a contract with the Department of Medicine at Michigan State University to assist in the compilation and reporting of Michigan occupational diseases. Additionally, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Part 164.512, authorizes agencies to collect and receive health information for the purpose of preventing and controlling diseases and related activities.

We thank you for your anticipated cooperation with this important public health law that assists us in identifying workplaces with high noise levels.

Any inquires regarding occupational reporting requirements should be directed to Director of the Management and Technical Services Division, LARA, P.O. Box 30649, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8149; or (517) 322-5123.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Kalinowski  
Director

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### **Suggested Criteria for Reporting Occupational Noise-Induced Hearing Loss**

**Hearing Loss** – Noise-induced hearing loss is defined for recordkeeping purposes as a change in hearing threshold relative to the baseline audiogram of an average of 10 decibels (dB) or more in either ear at 2000, 3000, and 4000 hertz (Hz), and the employee's total hearing level is 25 dB or more above audiometric zero (also averaged at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz) in the same ear(s).

For individuals not in a hearing conservation program, the suggested definitions of hearing loss for reporting are: a 25 dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of: 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz; or 1000, 2000 and 3000 Hz; or 3000, 4000 and 6000 Hz; or a 15 dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of 3000 and 4000 Hz.

LARA is an equal opportunity employer.

Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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