

Section 4.09

Noise Management

1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that hazards associated with exposure to noise are identified, assessed and controlled.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all operations where there is a potential for exposure to noise levels which may cause harm to health.

3. References

1. Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
2. Occupational Health and Safety (Noise) Regulations 2004.
3. Code of Practice for Noise 1992.- Repleaded
4. Australian Standard AS/NZS-1998 Part 0 – Overview: Occupational noise management.
5. Australian Standard AS 1270-1988 Acoustics – Hearing protectors.
6. Australian Standard AS 2107-1987 Acoustics – Recommendation design sound levels and reverberation times for building interiors.
7. Australian Standard AS 3755-1990 Acoustics – Measurement of airborne noise emitted by computer and business equipment.
8. Australian Standard AS 3781 – 1990 Acoustics – Noise labelling on machinery and equipment.

4. Responsibilities

Human Resources Coordinator (HRM)

The HRM shall ensure that audiometric testing is conducted where required at appropriate intervals and that associated records are properly maintained.

Managers/Supervisors

Managers/Supervisors are responsible for undertaking hazard identification with regard to noise related hazards in accordance with Section 3.06, *Hazard Identification*.

Managers/Supervisors must provide employees with appropriate hearing protection as required (see Section 3.14, *Health Monitoring*).

Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs)

HSRs shall ensure that suitable hearing protection is available for employees if considered necessary.



Employees

Employees shall ensure that they wear hearing protection where it has been provided and follow instructions in relation to the correct usage and maintenance of such equipment.

5. Definitions

Audiometric Testing

Audiometric testing is hearing tests conducted by an approved provider.

6. Method

6.1. Identification of Noise Hazards

Noise sources may be identified by employees, HSRs and/or Managers/Supervisors during **Hazard Identification** or at any other time.

As a general guide, excessive noise levels are likely if general conversation over a distance of 1 metre requires a raised voice.

The current noise exposure standard is 85 decibels over an eight (8) hour day. The maximum noise levels allowable at any time is 115 decibels [115 dB(A)].

6.2. Noise Risk Assessment

Noise sources identified in the workplace must be assessed by a suitably qualified person taking into consideration the following factors:

1. Elimination of the noise source.
2. Workplace layout.
3. Frequency and level of noise.
4. Existing noise control measures.

A **Noise Risk Assessment** will generally involve undertaking sound level monitoring.

Following the initial assessment, a supplementary review should be conducted as required or where there has been a change in the work environment or process that may impact on the noise exposure.

6.3. Noise Risk Control

Where noise exposures are identified above the exposure standard of 85 dB(A) or linear peak noise level of 140 dB(lin) noise control options shall be implemented.

Noise control options shall be based on the hierarchy of control being:

- **Elimination** of the noise source.
- **Isolation** of the noise source from the operator with the use of distance or barriers.



- **Administrative control** eg limiting the time an employee is exposed to the noise source.
- Provide appropriate **hearing protection devices**.

High risk areas should be designated as such and clear signage implemented specifying the requirements to use hearing protection (refer to Section 3.15, *Safety Signs in the Workplace*).

Evaluation of the effectiveness of noise control measures shall be conducted following implementation or where a change in the process occurs which has the potential to increase noise levels.

New equipment with the potential for high noise emissions shall be subject to an assessment prior to purchasing as outlined in Section 3.11, *Purchasing*.

6.4. Audiometric Testing

Where hearing protection is required to control employee noise exposure, and where legislation requires it, audiometric testing shall be conducted for relevant employees.

Audiometric testing programs shall be conducted in accordance with relevant legislation.

Records of all employee testing shall be retained on file by the Human Resources Officer.

6.5. Training and Education

If hearing protection is required, employees shall be trained in the appropriate use and maintenance of hearing protection devices.

Employees must also be made aware of the hazards that exist when exposed to excessive noise levels. Refer to Section 3.05, *Health and Safety Training*.

7. Related Documents

1. Section 3.05, *Health and Safety Training*.
2. Section 3.06, *Hazard Identification*.
3. Section 3.11, *Purchasing*.
4. Section 3.15, *Safety Signs in the Workplace*.

8. Attachments

Nil

