

NOISE EXPOSURE PROGRAM

This policy was developed in order to create a safe working environment for all Public Works employees with regard to occupational noise exposure and the prevention of hearing loss due to work related tasks. It is the intent of (*your town's name*) that noise exposure levels to employees remain below the action level.

- 1) A potential exists for employee noise exposure as outlined in **29CFR1910.95**.
- 2) Exposure dangers can be the result of working in certain areas of the (*your town's name*) – Public Works facilities, or the result of performing certain tasks using portable/mobile equipment.
- 3) Occupational noise exposure levels can vary over time due to equipment changes or modifications to workplace tasks, and therefore need periodic review and testing.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Monitoring will be performed and noise assessed in all areas of the (*your town's name*) – Public Works facilities that pose a risk. The required level of hearing protection will be posted at the site, including a time exposure limit that cannot be exceeded by the employee.
- 2) All employees will be required to stay 50% below the maximum time limit exposure so as to protect the worker from hearing loss. The time-weighted average will be adjusted for the Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) printed on the hearing protection.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) The Safety Committee will annually review the Noise Exposure Program and provide suggestions for improvements to the policy, implementation, and testing.
- 2) The Environmental Coordinator or his /her designee will perform noise monitoring as requested by the Safety Committee, or division foreman.
- 3) Division foremen and supervisors shall continue to periodically review JSA's and other workplace assessments with regards to noise exposure and the required level of hearing protection.

TESTING PROCEDURE AND LIMITS:

- 1) For steady sound, a 10-15 minute sample will be taken with a Type 1 or 2 Sound Level Meter. Readings shall be taken in the fast response, on the A-weighted scale.

- 2) Subtract 7 decibels from the NRR value of the hearing protection. Subtract the remaining amount from the measured level of the noise source.
- 3) The resulting value is the in-the-ear corrected decibel level.
- 4) Check chart below for time restriction based on decibel reading.

A-weighted sound level, following in-the-ear correction for hearing protection¹ (in decibels)	Maximum duration time of exposure² (in hours)	Action level³ (in hours)
80	32	16
85	16	8
90	8	4
100	2	1
105	1	0.5
110	0.5	0.25
115	0.25	0.125
120	0.125	0.0625

1. Taken from Table G-16A of 29CFR1910.95, Appendix A
2. Equivalent exposure time limits for sound levels other than 90 decibels
3. Action level established by OSHA (50% of standard)

TRAINING:

All employees will be trained initially upon hire, and annually thereafter. Training on hearing protection will be included with the annual PPE training, and will identify the types of protection and areas where it is required.