



**HEARING CONSERVATION
PROGRAM
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Summary of Changes

Date: 8/8/2019

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
B	Added "student worker" to the "Compliance with Program" section
C	Relocation: Definitions moved to the back of the document
C (1) a	Added: Establish and update...
C (1) e	Added: care and use of hearing protectors
D (4)	Eliminated: "Student and Visitors" section
E	Eliminated: "Noise Surveys and Personal Monitoring" (already shown in the "Duties and Responsibilities section")
Previous F (1)	Added: "for an 8-hour"
Previous F (1) a	Changed to read: "Receive sound level testing and assessment information"

A. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The Hearing Conservation Program is established in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.95, Occupational Noise Exposure, and describes the program elements necessary to protect employees and student workers from the harmful effects of occupational noise at all University of Nevada (UNLV) properties.

B. COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAM

This procedure applies to UNLV employees and student workers whose job assignments may expose them to noise levels at or above the action level set by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

C. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) Risk Management and Safety (RMS)

- a. Establish and update the Hearing Conservation Program for UNLV.
- b. Perform sound level testing and assess work locations to determine occupational noise exposure. Communicate test and assessment results to pertinent departments.
- c. Serve as a resource to departments which are evaluating and selecting appropriate engineering and administrative controls to reduce noise levels.
- d. Advise on the selection and purchase of hearing protectors, when engineering and/or administrative controls are not effective or infeasible, that can reduce sound levels below the action level.
- e. Provide training to employees on the Hearing Conservation Program and care/use of hearing protectors.
- f. Ensure sound monitoring equipment is maintained and properly calibrated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
- g. Maintain documentation for all assessments performed.

(2) Department Managers and Supervisors

- a. Implement the Hearing Conservation Program.
- b. Contact RMS as needed, to:

- i. Inform RMS when machinery and equipment is added that may produce noise.
 - ii. Request sound level testing and workplace assessments to determine if hazardous noise levels are present.
 - iii. Discuss the use of engineering and administrative controls to reduce exposures.
 - iv. Receive information about hearing protection training and audiometric testing (department funded).
- c. Maintain equipment to reduce noise emissions.
 - d. Ensure employees and student workers who are exposed to occupational noise receive the training as listed in section C (1) e, before being assigned duties that may involve occupational noise.
 - e. Select hearing protections with a sufficient noise reduction rating (NRR) that will lower noise levels to below the action level.
 - f. Provide a variety of hearing protectors to employees at no cost, if engineering and administrative controls fail to reduce noise exposure below the action level.
 - g. Allow adequate time for the proper cleaning and storage of hearing protectors.
 - h. Replace hearing protectors when they become unserviceable or no longer provides adequate protection.
 - i. Post appropriate warning signs at the entrances of all high noise areas and have hearing protection available to all who enter these areas.

(3) Employees and Student Workers

- a. Complete required annual training and audiometric tests, if placed on the hearing conservation program.
- b. Wear hearing protectors properly in areas requiring its use.
- c. Keep hearing protectors clean, in serviceable condition and stored properly.

- d. Inform supervisors when hearing protectors are no longer serviceable so they can be replaced.

D. HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- (1) If personal dosimetry results reveal noise levels at 85 dba or higher for an 8-hour time weighed average (TWA), then exposed employees in these areas will be entered into the Hearing Conservation Program, and:
 - a. Receive sound level testing and assessment information.
 - b. Receive copies of their audiometric exams and explanations to include notification of standard threshold shifts.
 - c. Complete annual training and audiometric testing (no cost to employees).
 - d. Select PPE from a variety offered that will bring noise levels below 85 dba.

E. DEFINITIONS

- (1) **Action Level** – An 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels measured on the A-scale, slow response, or equivalently, a dose of 50 percent.
- (2) **Audiogram** – A chart, graph, or table resulting from an audiometric test showing an individual's hearing threshold levels as a function of frequency.
- (3) **Decibel (db)** – A unit of measurement of sound level.
- (4) **Occupational Noise** – Occupational noise is the amount of acoustic energy received by an employee's auditory system when they are working in the industry. (Wikipedia)
- (5) **Time-Weighted Average (TWA)** – That sound level, which if constant over an 8-hour exposure, would result in the same noise dose as is measured.