

Noise in the Canadian Workplace

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Low or moderate noise levels can cause annoyance and stress, and make it difficult for people to complete tasks, or talk to and hear one another. Loud noises can cause permanent hearing loss and risk worker safety.

Promote hearing conservation

- Noise assessment and measurement for all workers
- No working hearing protection device program required
- All workers must wear hearing conservation devices
- No workers and tasks for which it is not possible to reduce noise levels
- Encourage workers to report noise hazards
- Other workers must wear the appropriate hearing protection

What is a hearing conservation program?

- Noise assessment
- Hearing protection devices
- Hearing training and education
- Audiometric testing
- Record-keeping
- Hearing aids
- Hearing protection

The most method of preventing noise-induced hearing loss is to eliminate the source or to reduce noise at the source.

Eliminate the hazard

Engineering controls
(Such as changing design and materials)
(2000-2001)

Substitution of equipment

Administrative controls
(Change the way the work is done)
(2000-2001)

Using protective equipment

Make sure hearing protection is:

- Suitable for the job
- Comfortable with other protective equipment or other equipment
- Compatible enough to be worn and used
- Appropriate for the frequency and intensity of the noise

Noise Sources (dB(A))

Noise Source	dB(A)
Normal conversation (1 m)	60
Normal conversation (3 m)	50
Normal conversation (10 m)	40
Normal conversation (30 m)	30
Normal conversation (100 m)	20
Normal conversation (300 m)	10
Normal conversation (1000 m)	0

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