Scope. The purpose of this part is to:

- Prevent employee hearing loss by minimizing employee noise exposures
- Make sure employees exposed to noise are protected.

These goals are accomplished by:

- Measuring and computing the employee noise exposure from all equipment and machinery in the workplace, as well as any other noise sources in the work area
- Protecting employees from noise exposure by using feasible noise controls
- Making sure employees use hearing protection, if you cannot feasibly control the noise
- Training employees about hearing loss prevention
- Evaluating your hearing loss prevention efforts by tracking employee hearing or periodically reviewing controls and protection
- Making appropriate corrections to your program.

Reference: Table 1 will help you determine the hearing loss prevention requirements for your workplace. For the specific requirements associated with Noise Evaluation Criteria, see WAC 296-307-63410 of this part.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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</table>
| 85 dBA TWA₈               | Full-day employee noise exposure dose. If you have one or more employees whose exposure equals or exceeds this level, you must have a hearing loss prevention program | - Hearing protection  
- Training  
- Audiometric testing |
| 90 dBA TWA₈               | Full-day employee noise exposure dose. If you have one or more employees whose exposure equals or exceeds this level, you must reduce employee noise exposures in the workplace | - Noise controls  
AND  
- Hearing protection  
- Training  
- Audiometric testing |
| 115 dBA measured using slow response | Extreme noise level (greater than one second in duration) | - Hearing protection  
- Signs posted in work areas warning of exposure |
| 140 dBA measured using fast response | Extreme impulse or impact noise (less than one second in duration) | Hearing protection |

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-630, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]