

WAC 296-307-63205 Conduct employee noise exposure monitoring.

You must:

- Conduct employee noise exposure monitoring to determine the employee's actual exposure when reasonable information indicates that any employee's exposure may equal or exceed 85 dBA TWA₈.

Note:

- Representative monitoring may be used where several employees perform the same tasks in substantially similar conditions
- Examples of information or situations that can indicate exposures which equal or exceed 85 dBA TWA₈, include:
 - Noise in the workplace that interferes with people speaking, even at close range
 - Information from the manufacturer of equipment you use in the workplace that indicates high noise levels for machines in use
 - Reports from employees of ringing in their ears or temporary hearing loss
 - Warning signals or alarms that are difficult to hear
 - Work near abrasive blasting or jack hammering operations
 - Use of tools and equipment such as the following:
 - Heavy equipment or machinery
 - Fuel-powered hand tools
 - Compressed air-driven tools or equipment in frequent use
 - Power saws, grinders or chippers
 - Powder-actuated tools.

You must:

- Follow applicable guidance in WAC 296-307-634 when conducting noise exposure monitoring

- Make sure your sampling for noise exposure monitoring identifies:

- All employees whose exposure equals or exceeds the following:
 - 85 dBA TWA₈ (noise dosimetry, providing an average exposure over an eight-hour time period)
 - 115 dBA (slow response sound level meter, identifying short-term noise exposures)
 - 140 dBC (fast response sound level meter, identifying almost instantaneous noise exposures).

- Exposure levels for selection of hearing protection.

- Provide exposed employees and their representatives with an opportunity to observe any measurements of employee noise exposure that are conducted

- Notify each employee whose exposure equals or exceeds 85 dBA TWA₈ of the monitoring results within five working days of when you receive the results

- Conduct additional noise monitoring whenever a change in production, process, equipment or controls, may reasonably be expected to result in:

- Additional employees whose exposure equals or exceeds 85 dBA TWA₈

- Employees exposed to higher level of noise requiring more effective hearing protection.

Note:

- Conditions that may be expected to increase exposure include:
 - Adding machinery to the work area
 - Increasing production rates
 - Removal or deterioration of noise control devices
 - Increased use of noisy equipment
 - Change in work schedule
 - Change of job duties.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-63205, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]