
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 TWA_{8}.

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 TWA_{8}, 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
  – 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 TWA_{8} (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 TWA_{8} 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 TWA_{8}
  – 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.]