WAC 296-307-63210  Control employee noise exposures that equal or exceed 90 dBA TWA₈.

IMPORTANT:
Hearing protection provides a barrier to noise and protects employees but is not considered a control of the noise hazard. Separate requirements apply to hearing protection and are found in WAC 296-307-63215.

You must:
• Reduce employee noise exposure, using feasible controls, wherever exposure equals or exceeds 90 dBA TWA₈.

Note:
• Once noise exposures are brought below 90 dBA TWA₈, no further reduction is required. However, further reduction of noise may reduce the need for other hearing loss prevention requirements
• Controls that eliminate noise at the source or establish a permanent barrier to noise are typically more reliable. For example:
  – Replacing noisy equipment with quiet equipment
  – Using silencers and mufflers
  – Installing enclosures
  – Damping noisy equipment and parts.
• Other controls and work practices may also be useful for reducing noise exposures. Examples include:
  – Employee rotation
  – Limiting use of noisy equipment
  – Rescheduling work.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-63210, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]