WAC 296-817-100 Scope. The purpose of this chapter is to:

(1) Prevent employee hearing loss by minimizing employee noise exposures; and

(2) Make sure employees exposed to noise are protected.

These goals are accomplished by:

(1) 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;

(2) Protecting employees from noise exposure by using feasible noise controls;

(3) Making sure employees use hearing protection, if you cannot feasibly control the noise;

(4) Training employees about hearing loss prevention;

(5) Evaluating your hearing loss prevention efforts by tracking employee hearing or periodically reviewing controls and protection;

(6) 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 296-817-30010 of this chapter.

Use Table 1 to help you determine the hearing loss prevention requirements for your workplace:

Table 1
Noise Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 dBA TWA&lt;sub&gt;8&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Hearing protection Training Audiometric testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 dBA TWA&lt;sub&gt;8&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Noise controls Hearing protection Training Audiometric testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115 dBA measured using slow response</td>
<td>Extreme noise level (greater than one second in duration).</td>
<td>Hearing protection Signs posted in work areas warning of exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140 dBC measured using fast response</td>
<td>Extreme impulse or impact noise (less than one second in duration).</td>
<td>Hearing protection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050. WSR 15-23-086, § 296-817-100, filed 11/17/15, effective 12/18/15. Statuto-
Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 03-11-060, § 296-817-100, filed 5/19/03, effective 8/1/03.]