

**HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
PROCEDURE FOR  
NOISE MANAGEMENT**

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## 1. APPROVAL

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## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide practical guidance on how noise affects hearing, how to identify and assess noise exposure and how to control health and safety risks arising from hazardous noise. Also, to ensure that all workplace noise is assessed, monitored and controlled to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

## 3. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all areas where workers are required to work. It will also be relevant to contractors while completing work on behalf of Insert Your Company.

## 4. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
<b>Administrative Noise Control Measures</b>	Work systems designed to administratively reduce noise exposure, e.g. job rotation, job design or rosters which are designed to reduce noise exposure.
<b>Audiometric Testing</b>	Medical hearing and assessment of the hearing threshold levels of ears of a person utilizing pure tone air conduction threshold tests.
<b>The A-weighted Scale</b>	A frequency weighting scale that measures the human ear response to noise.
<b>The C-weighted Scale</b>	A frequency weighting scale is used to measure peak sound pressure level.
<b>dB(A)</b>	Stands for decibels on the A-weighted scale.
<b>dB(C)</b>	Stands for decibels on the C-weighted scale.
<b>Sound Pressure Level</b>	A measurement of sound pressure or noise level.
<b>Noise Control</b>	Any engineering procedure that reduces the sound level, either at the source of the noise or in its transmission.
<b>Environmental Noise</b>	Is sound emitted that is transmitted through the atmosphere and is audible or has an impact at a neighbouring receiver location. Environmental noise is invasive by nature and is generally considered a form of pollution or nuisance and has the potential to be an operational constraint.
<b>Excessive Noise</b>	Is that which exceeds the maximum daily exposure limit. It is the noise that either may cause hearing loss because of its intensity, duration and/or frequency distribution or that which disturbs cognitive or physiological functions.

Term	Definition
<b>Exposure standard for noise</b>	Means in relation to a person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAeq,8h of 85 dB(A); or</li> <li>• LC, peak of 140 dB(C).</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard</b>	Is anything that may result in harm to the health of a person.
<b>Nuisance Noise</b>	Is that which is perceived as annoying, in the case of daily exposure.
<b>Occupational Noise Induced Hearing Loss</b>	Is hearing impairment arising from exposure to excessive noise at work.
<b>Ototoxic</b>	Is a chemical that can damage hearing or cause problems with balance. Examples include toluene, xylenes, ethylbenzene and hexachloroarsenic, lead, mercury and carbon monoxide. Exposure to ototoxic substances in addition to noise has been found to have synergistic effects on hearing loss.
<b>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b>	Includes any clothing, equipment or substance designed to be worn by a person, and protect the person from risks of injury or illness.

## 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Managers are responsible for:

- Developing and implementing noise reduction plans where appropriate.
- Ensuring newly purchased or fabricated equipment does not emit more than the permitted level of noise (one (1) metre from the equipment unless prior assessment and knowledge between management and the affected workers).

### Supervisors are responsible for:

- Ensuring appropriate PPE to meet the needs of each task.
- Ensuring workers wear prescribed hearing protection in identified hearing protection areas.

### Workers and visitors are responsible for:

- Wearing hearing protection in areas where the noise level is, or exceeds, 85dB(A).
- Cooperating with management and working in a manner consistent with safe working practices in relation to noise management.