

SESLHD PROCEDURE COVER SHEET



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

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KEY TERMS	WHS risk management, noise management, health surveillance
SUMMARY	This procedure provides managers and workers with guidance on managing risks associated with noise in the workplace

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS DOCUMENT IS MANDATORY

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1. PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The [Code of Practice - Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work](#) outlines the obligations of a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking in achieving compliance with the health and safety duties of the WHS Act in relation to noise.

2. BACKGROUND

This procedure has been developed to help identify and control unsafe levels of noise within SESLHD facilities. It outlines the safety precautions to be undertaken for workers that may potentially be exposed to levels of noise at or above LAeq,8h of 85dB(A), on an ongoing basis.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Workers will:

Comply with procedure for noise management by reporting tasks they identify that may expose them to noise in the workplace and follow any measures put in place to protect their own health and safety, including agreed safety and risk controls for workers and others in the workplace.

3.2 Line Managers will:

Conduct annual Noise Hazard Identification Checklist (Appendix 1), and where noise hazards are identified:

- Notify the Local WHS & IM Team to verify assessment.
- In line with the Detailed Noise Assessment, implement recommended controls including provision of any required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), training, instruction and supervision.
- Provide details of new workers to the Facility Manager (or delegated unit managing hearing assessments) within three months of the worker starting in the work area.

3.3 Facility Managers/ Service Managers or their delegate will:

- Establish local processes for the implementation of audiometric testing program at the facility as outlined in [5.6. Audiometric Testing](#), including managing payments of detailed noise assessments and workers audiometric testing.
- Consult with other duty holders where the work they are undertaking may expose other workers to noise risks.

3.4 Health and Safety Representative (HSR) or Workplace Safety Committee Representatives:

Assist the workers to consult with their manager to implement agreed controls for managing noise risks in their workplace.

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3.5 Sector Workplace Health and Safety Team (Local WHS & IM):

Will assist with implementing this procedure by;

- Verifying the Noise Hazard Identification Checklist where a potential noise risk is identified.
- Establishing and updating a register of all identified noise risks at the facility
- Providing a copy of the register to the Facility Manager for identification of affected workers
- Co-ordinate the external provider to conduct Detailed Noise Assessments
- Assist line Managers in implemented recommended controls from the Detailed Noise assessments.
- Ensure invoices for Detailed Noise Assessments are provided to the Sector Executive for payment.

3.6 Other duty holders will:

Consult with SESLHD managers and workers regarding any noise related risks that they may be exposing others to and agree to implement controls.

4. DEFINITIONS (WHS definitions relating to Noise Management)

Audiometric testing - refers to the testing and measuring of the hearing threshold levels of each ear of a person by means of pure tone air conduction threshold tests.

A-weighting dB(A) - refers to a standardised frequency response used in sound measuring instruments. It corresponds approximately to the human ear response at low sound levels. Sound pressure levels measured using this response, which is specified in Australian Standard AS 1259.11, are expressed in units of dB(A).

C-weighting dB(C) - refers to a standardised frequency response used in sound measuring instruments. It corresponds approximately to the human ear response at high sound levels. Sound pressure levels measured using this response, which is specified in Australian Standard AS 1259.11, are expressed in units of dB(C).

Decibel (dB) is the unit for measuring sound levels. It indicates the relative magnitude of sound pressure level and other acoustical quantities. The range of sound pressures commonly encountered is very large so a logarithmic scale is used. The decibel is the unit used on this scale and is abbreviated to 'dB'. On the decibel scale, the threshold of hearing occurs at a sound pressure level of about 0dB and the threshold of pain occurs at about 120dB. As the decibel is also used to describe the level of other quantities, such as sound power and vibration acceleration, it is always necessary to refer to the specific quantity being measured, for example, LAeq,8h or Lc,peak.

Detailed Noise Assessment – an assessment conducted in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards by a competent person (with respect to training and experience), for example, an occupational hygienist that specialises in noise exposure management.

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Exposure standard - defined as $L_{Aeq,8h}$ of 85 dB(A) or $L_{C,peak}$ of 140 dB(C) (WHS Regulation 2011, clause 57). There are two parts to the exposure standard for noise because noise can either cause gradual hearing loss over a period of time or be so loud that it causes immediate hearing loss.

Hearing protection areas means an area where workers may be exposed to noise levels exceeding $L_{Aeq,8h}$ of 85dB(A) or $L_{C,peak}$ of 140dB(C), as defined in the-Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011. During normal operations, no worker may enter such an area without wearing appropriate personal protective equipment/hearing protectors. Hearing protection areas should be clearly defined and sign-posted according to Australian Standard AS 13192.

$L_{Aeq,8h}$ (eight hour equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level in dB(A) referenced to 20 micropascals). This relates to the total amount of noise energy a person is exposed to in the course of their working day; it takes into account the noise level and the length of time the person is exposed to it. $L_{Aeq,8h}$ is to be determined in accordance with Australian Standard AS 12693.

$L_{C,peak}$ (**peak noise level**) means C-weighted peak hold sound pressure level in decibels, referenced to 20 micropascals, determined in accordance with Australian Standard AS/NZS 1269.1. It usually relates to noise that is loud and sudden, such as impact or explosive noise, and can cause immediate hearing loss.

Ototoxic substances three major classes of ototoxic substances: solvents, heavy metals and asphyxiants.

PCBU (Person conducting a business or undertaking) all employer-type organisations including corporations, associations, partnerships, labour hire companies, franchisees and contractors.
SESLHD is defined as a PCBU.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Safety equipment provided to reduce the risk of exposure to workers. The term Personal Hearing Protectors (PHP) is also referred to in noise related codes of practice and some training.

Sound pressure means the alternating component of the pressure at a point in a sound field.

Tinnitus means ringing or other noises in the head or ears which can be caused by exposure to excessive noise

5. PROCEDURE

To ensure general information is provided to staff about hearing protection and hearing loss as required by the National Code of Practice (Noise Management and Protection of Hearing at Work), a brochure has been developed [SESLHDHB/015 Work Health and Safety - Noise Management Handbook](#) and is to be provided by the Manager to all workers who work in high risk noise areas.

Overview of procedure to manage noise related environments –

1. The Manager in consultation with workers, Health and Safety Representatives and other duty holders, are to complete, [Appendix 1 - Noise Hazard Identification Checklist](#) annually or where a new potential noise hazard is identified (whichever occurs first)
2. The Manager is to submit a copy of the completed Noise Hazard Identification Checklist to the Local WHS & IM team
3. The Local WHS & IM team will verify an identified noise hazards listed in the checklist and arrange Detailed Noise Assessments as required.
4. The Local WHS & IM Team will create and maintain a register of all noise areas at their facilities and provide the Facility Manager (or their delegate) with a copy of current noise areas.
5. The manager is to implement recommended controls outlines in the Detailed Noise Assessments.
6. The manager is to ensure all workers receive training instruction and supervision to ensure they are correctly complying with the controls in place to manage the noise hazard.
7. The workers are to implement controls as per the training and advise their manager of any damage to PPE or other control devices.
8. The workers are to follow and use recommended controls (e.g. PPE, SWP's) and advise their manager of any new noise hazards or damage to PPE or other control devices.
9. The Facility Manager (or their delegate) is to ensure arrangements are in place for all workers in noisy areas to receive periodic hearing assessments.

5.1 Identifying Noise Hazards

As an informal guide, when a raised voice is needed to communicate with someone about one metre away, a workplace noise assessment is needed. Other information can be gathered from plant manufacturers and suppliers.

Refer to: [Model Code of Practice: Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work](#)

Listed are some identified areas and equipment usage within SESLHD which may require monitoring or assessing:

- Maintenance areas and workshops
- Sterilising Services
- Plant rooms
- Gardening
- Helicopter retrievals areas
- Dental clinics
- Plaster saws
- Central Processing Unit (cumulative equipment in the location)
- Following the introduction of new plant or equipment or the modification of existing plant or equipment likely to affect a worker's exposure to noise
- Or where it has been indicated by the Risk Assessment and controls that a Detailed Noise Assessment may be required.

5.2 Overview of Noise Exposure Limits

Managers are required to identify, assess and control noise sources so no worker or other person on site (such as visitors or patients) is exposed to noise levels greater than the legal maximum levels, which may lead to temporary or permanent hearing loss or tinnitus.

The maximum legally acceptable level of exposure to noise in the workplace is;

- LAeq,8h of 85dB(A) which is the equivalent to eight hours exposed to steady sound pressure levels of 85 dB(A) per day, or
- peak sound pressure levels of 140 dB(C).

Workers who work shifts of ten hours or longer, or work more than five days per week, may have increased risk, and as such an adjustment factor is required for their LAeq,8h measurements.

The recommended “safe” maximum level of noise exposure is based on the worker not being exposed to noisy activities during the rest of the 24 hour day. Exposure to noisy activities outside of work (e.g. loud music including from personal stereos) will impact on a workers overall noise exposure and ultimately may adversely affect their hearing.

The exposure standards for noise protect are correct for most but not all people, therefore workplace noise should be kept lower than the exposure standard for noise if reasonably practicable.

5.3 Noise Hazard Assessment

The manager and workers are to conduct an annual check of noise hazards using Appendix 1. - Noise Hazard Identification Checklist. Completed copies of the noise checklist are to be sent to the Local WHS & IM.

Initial action is to be taken by the manager and workers to conduct a Risk Assessment to identify and implement controls for noise hazards in their workplace. Where possible the assessments should be done on an individual basis unless more than one staff member performs the specific task in the workplace.

Controls identified in the Risk Assessment are to be implemented and added to the department Hazard Register.

5.4 Testing of Noise Risks (Detailed Noise Assessment)

The Local WHS & IM team will verify the details of any risks identified through the Noise Hazard Identification Checklist and arrange a Detailed Noise Assessment.

Where a Detailed Noise Assessment is required, the service provider must be a competent person with respect to training and experience, for example, an occupational hygienist that specialises in noise exposure management, and must conduct the assessment in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards.

At a minimum the Detailed Noise Assessments must be reviewed every five years, or earlier when changes are made to the workplace which affect the level of noise.

5.5 Noise Control Measures

Where the detailed noise assessment indicates the noise in the workplace exceeds safe exposure levels, then the exposure must be controlled. Preventing the noise is the ideal solution however, if this is not possible, then control measures must be introduced to reduce the noise level to or below LAeq,8h of 85dB(A).

Note: [Appendix 2 - Noise Risk Control Guide](#) is provided to assist with implementing controls in accordance with the WHS hierarchy of controls. Minimising exposure should not rely solely on the use of PPE. An implementation plan should be documented after evaluation of the noise assessment results and must include risk rating, timeframes and responsibilities for action.

5.5.1 New Workplaces and Equipment

Noise minimisation should be considered during all stages of planning and design of areas to be refurbished or rebuilt or in the planning of equipment purchase. Consultation with workers who will work in the area will also assist to identify potential noise exposure risks and allow for these to be designed out before they are created.

The following District Forms are available to assist in this assessment process -

- F306 - Request for Clinical Product Evaluation Form
- F307 - Clinical Product Evaluation Form
- F308 - Clinical Product Evaluation Template

5.5.2 Construction sites or other Temporary Work Areas

Construction sites and other temporary work areas must be designed to ensure that exposure to noise is at or below LAeq,8h of 85 dB(A). If it is assessed using [Appendix 1 - Noise Hazard Identification Checklist](#) where SESLHD workers or patients will be exposed to noise levels above LAeq,8h of 85 dB(A), a formal risk assessment is to be conducted using [F038 - Generic Risk Assessment Form](#) and appropriate controls are to be put in place. This is applicable to all work that is conducted on SESLHD sites by workers.

5.5.3 Elimination

Eliminating the noise should always be the preferred option and this may be possible through removal of noisy equipment or outsourcing a task or activity.

5.5.4 Substitution

"Buy quiet" - purchasing and hiring procedures should include noise emissions to help select the quietest plant for the job. Another option is to try to change the way the job is done so that it becomes less noisy, for example, gluing is quieter than hammering in nails, welding may be quieter than riveting.

5.5.5 Isolation

The aim of isolation is to separate people or property from the source of noise. This can be achieved in a number of ways such as using distance, barriers, enclosures and sound absorbing surfaces.

5.5.6 Engineering Controls

Where noise cannot be eliminated or minimised through isolation and/or substitution then an engineering control should be implemented. It should be remembered that regular inspection and maintenance of equipment will ensure they are operating correctly and therefore not creating additional noise.

The two engineering noise control measures are:

1. Engineering treatment of the source, which is isolating the noise-emitting object(s) in an enclosure.
2. Engineering treatment of the noise transmission path by isolating the workers, for example placing them in a sound-proof room or sound-reducing enclosures.

5.5.7 Administrative Controls

Where it is not practicable to achieve noise levels at or below LAeq,8h of 85dB(A) solely by using engineering controls, administrative noise control measures may also be used. This may include job rotation or job redesign so that minimal numbers of workers are exposed or the amount of time they are exposed to the noise is reduced. There should be regular checks to ensure compliance with the agreed controls.

Managers, supervisors and workers should consult when undertaking Risk Assessments and developing or reviewing local Safe Work Procedures and business rules, in line with [SESLHDPR/342 Work Health and Safety - Development of Safe Work Practices Procedure](#). There are a number of additional considerations around noise management that need to be documented through the risk assessment process, including:

- Regular inspection and maintenance of plant and equipment
- Work routine
- Where persons are not required to be in the area, they should leave immediately to reduce their exposure time
- Communicating to others regarding the risk or exposure if the level of noise is not part of their regular work (i.e. maintenance work being carried out in a department)
- Alternative work techniques and practices
- Restricted or alternative operating times for tasks above LAeq,8h of 85dB(A)
- When to wear Personal Protection Equipment
- Training to include Hearing Risks [F129 - Department Training Register](#).

5.5.8 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

When engineering and administrative noise control measures do not reduce the exposure to noise to or below the exposure standard, workers and other must be supplied with and wear effective PPE, in some cases this is also referred to as Personal Hearing Protection (PHP).

It should be noted that where noise management by engineering or administrative control measures are practicable and bring the risk below the LAeq, 8h of 85 dB(A), PPE should not be used as the control.

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Workers are not to be given or asked to use PPE until they are provided with information, instruction, and training in their use and maintenance (see 5.5.10 Training). Assistance on this matter can be sought through the Local WHS & IM Team.

It is important that the hearing protectors are worn throughout the period of exposure to noise. Removing PPE for even a short period significantly reduces the effective noise reduction, hence may not protect the user from exposure to hazardous noise levels.

When choosing PPE, consider:

- It must comply with Occupational Noise Management AS/NZS 1269 (indicated on the PHP or packaging)
- The level of protection offered by the PPE to reduce the noise level sufficiently, without cutting out too much sound (which can cause other communication and safety issues).
- What style best suits the work environment and work tasks, e.g. earplugs may not suit a dirty environment, earmuffs might be uncomfortable in a hot environment or difficult if the user needs to also wear a helmet or glasses.
- Comfort, weight and clamping force of the PPE.

(For more information, see the [SESLHDHB/015 Work Health and Safety - Noise Management Handbook](#).)

5.5.9 Hearing Protection Areas, Signs and Warnings

Areas where people may be exposed to hazardous noise should be sign-posted as *Hearing Protection Areas* and their boundaries should be clearly defined. No worker, including visitors, managers and supervisors, should enter a hearing protection area during normal operation, unless wearing appropriate PPE. This is regardless of how long the person spends in the hearing protection area. The signs used to identify these areas should conform to specifications laid down in Australian Standard AS 13197.

Additional signage within the hearing protection areas may be necessary [F132 - Safety Rules Form](#). Where signage is not practicable, alternative arrangements should be made to ensure that people can recognise circumstances in which PPE is required. This may include:

- Attaching warning notices to tools and equipment indicating that PPE must be worn during operation
- Providing written and verbal instructions on how to recognise circumstances in which PPE is needed
- Effective supervision of identified Hearing Protection Areas.

5.5.10 Training

Training will be provided to workers by their manager or a competent person in the local Safe Work Procedure for the identified tasks where noise risks have been assessed and is to be documented in a local training register using [F129 - Department Training](#)

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[Register](#). Training is to be provided when there are changes to the procedures, equipment or commencement of employment.

To ensure general information is provided about hearing protection and hearing loss as required by the Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work Code of Practice, a brochure [SESLHDHB/015 Work Health and Safety - Noise Management Handbook](#) is available and is to be provided by the Manager to all workers in high risk noise areas as part of the Safe Work Procedure and local training.

5.6. Audiometric Testing

It is a requirement to provide audiometric testing for workers who perform work that required the use personal hearing protectors as a control measure for noise that exceeds the exposure standard.

Hearing is also to be monitored with audiometric testing in situations where:

- exposure to ototoxic substances where airborne exposure is greater than 50% of the national exposure standard for the substance, regardless of noise level
- exposure to ototoxic substances at any noise level where LAeq,8h is greater than 80 dB(A) or LC Peak is greater than 135 dB(C)
- hand-arm vibration at any level and noise where LAeq,8h is greater than 80 dB(A) or LC Peak is greater than 135 dB(C).

See [5.7 Other causes of hearing loss in the workplace](#) for more information

Process for arranging Audiometric Testing -

1. Based on the register of all noise areas, the Facility Manager (or their delegate) will arrange baseline audiometric testing for workers that work in the identified areas.
2. Within three months of a new worker starting in an identified noise area, the manager must ensure the Facility Manager is advised of the workers details so baseline testing can be established.
3. The Facility Manager will arrange for ongoing audiometric testing of workers every two years as per the register of noisy areas and the date of baseline testing.
4. The Facility Manager (or their delegate) will maintain the staff health records of each assessed worker in line with the State Records Act
5. Workers are to be given the results of audiometric testing accompanied by a written explanation of the meaning and implications. Only with the consent of the worker will their results be provided to other parties.
6. The Facility Manager can share de-identifiable data such as individual results or group data.

5.7 Other causes of hearing loss in the workplace

Vibration - there appears to be a link between exposure to hand-arm vibration and hearing loss. Tools that may expose workers to both include chainsaws, lawnmowers, brush-cutters, riveters, grinders, sanders and drills. This may possibly affect gardening and some maintenance workers.

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Ototoxic substances - exposure to some chemicals, including some medications, can result in hearing loss. Hearing loss is more likely to occur if workers are exposed to simultaneously to noise and ototoxic substances rather than just exposed to one or the other. This may possibly affect some maintenance workers.

Acoustic shock - acoustic incidence of sudden, unexpected loud noises occurring during telephone headset use. They usually occur in call centres.

See the [Model Code of Practice: Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work](#) for more information.

5.8 Other effects of noise

Adverse health effects can occur at lower noise levels below the exposure standard, when noise chronically interferes with concentration and communication.

The risk can be minimised by keeping the noise levels below 50 dB(A) where work is being carried out that requires high concentration or effortless conversation, or below 70 dB(A) where more routine work is being carried out that requires speed or attentiveness or where it is important to carry on conversations.

To work safely, workers must comply with any local business rules regarding use of personal stereos and headphones so they are able to hear warning signs above any other ambient noise at the workplace.

5.9 Review

Noise control measures must be reviewed when:

- The control measure does not control the risk as far as is reasonably practicable
- Proposed changes to the workplace are being considered
- A new hazard or risk is identified
- Consultation indicates that it is necessary
- A health and safety representative requests a review

6. DOCUMENTATION

[Form F131 - Safe Work Procedure](#)

[Form F132 – Safety Rules](#)

[Form F118 - Hazard Register](#)

[Form F129 - Department Training Register](#)

[Appendix 1 - Noise Hazard Identification Checklist](#)

[SESLHDHB/015 Work Health and Safety - Noise Management Handbook](#)

7. AUDIT

NSW Health WHS Audit Tool (every two years)

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Implementation of the program will be evidenced by documented use of Risk Assessment Tool, local or departmental Safe Work Procedures, and [Form F129 - Department Training Register](#).

8. REFERENCES

External

[Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

[Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#)

[Code of Practice - Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work](#)

AS 1259.1 Acoustics – Sound Level Meters

AS 1319 Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment

AS 2659 Guide to the Use of Sound Measuring Equipment

AS/NZS 1269 Occupational Noise Management

AS/NZS 2399 Acoustics - Specifications for Personal Sound Exposure Meters

AS 2659 Guide to the Use of Sound Measuring Equipment

Ministry of Health

[Work Health and Safety: Better Practice Procedures](#)

Internal

[SESLHDPR/212 Work Health and Safety - Risk Management Procedure](#)

[SESLHDPR/342 Work Health and Safety - Development of Safe Work Practices Procedure](#)

9. REVISION AND APPROVAL HISTORY

Date	Revision No.	Author and Approval
August 2010	DRAFT	Peter Kuszelyk, OHS Officer
9 November 2010	0	Approved at Area Executive Team meeting
October 2014	1	Peter Kuszelyk, WHS Consultant
December 2014	1	Approved by Executive Sponsor – draft for comment
September 2017	2	John Parkinson WHS Consultant, Health Safety & Wellbeing
October 2017	2	Updates endorsed by Executive Sponsor



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Appendix 1 - Noise Hazard Identification Checklist

Some work environments are noisy due to a range of factors, this section will help identify if noise is a potential hazard. **Answering YES** (to one or more of these questions) means that a Noise Assessment is to be conducted

Description of work location: _____

Activities at workstation: _____

Assessed by: _____

Date: _____

Hazard identification questions	Yes	No
1. Is a raised voice needed to communicate with someone about one metre away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you or others in your work area notice a reduction in hearing over the course of the day? (This reduction might not be noticed until after work.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are your workers using noisy powered tools or machinery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are there noises due to impacts (such as hammering, pneumatic impact tools) or explosive sources (such as explosive powered tools, detonators)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are personal hearing protectors used for some work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do your workers complain that there is too much noise or that they can't clearly hear instructions or warning signals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do your workers experience ringing in the ears or a noise sounding different in each ear?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do any long-term workers appear to be hard of hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Have there been any workers' compensation claims for noise-induced hearing loss?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Does any equipment have manufacturer's information (including labels) indicating noise levels equal or greater than any of the following:		
(a) 80 dB(A) LAeq,T (T= time period over which noise is measured)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) 130 dB(C) peak noise level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) 88 dB(A) sound power level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do the results of audiometry tests indicate that past or present workers have hearing loss?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Are any workers exposed to noise and ototoxins in the workplace?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Are any workers exposed to noise and hand-arm vibration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Acknowledgement

National [Code of Practice - Managing Noise and Preventing Hearing Loss at Work](#)

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Appendix 2 - Noise Risk Control Guide

Safety Measure	Control measures to consider
Elimination: Eliminate the source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceasing to use a noisy machine • Change the way work is carried out so hazardous noise is not produced or by not introducing the hazard into your workplace
Substitution: Use a safer way of doing the task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute the hazard with plant or processes that are quieter. e.g. glueing not nailing
Isolation: Separate people or property from the source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate the source of noise from people by using distance, barriers, enclosures and sound absorbing surfaces
Engineering: Use physical controls (such as plant/equipment) that eliminate or reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acoustic engineering controls e.g. noise dampening • Alternative work techniques and practices • Modify plant and processes to reduce the noise • Regular inspections and maintenance
Administration: Use safe work practices and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre purchase checklist, to assess the noise levels • Audiometric environmental testing • Audiometric testing • Hearing protection training • Signage • Consider job rotation, job redesign to reduce the amount of time people are exposed to the noise • Regular inspection and maintenance of plant and equipment • Work routine, • Where persons are not required to be in the area, they should leave immediately to reduce their exposure time. • Communicating to others regarding the risk or exposure if the level of noise is not part of their regular work (i.e. maintenance work being carried out in a department). • Restricted or alternative operating times for tasks above LAeq,8h of 85dB(A). • When to wear Personal Hearing Protectors • Training to include Hearing Risks
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Provide protective equipment for workers, supervisors and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal hearing protection <p>NB: items must be appropriate for the task/equipment being undertaken or operated.</p>