PURPOSE

Establishes the Company’s written program to educate and protect employees from prolonged exposure to high noise levels associated with occupational noise hazards.

1. EFFECTS OF NOISE EXPOSURE
2. The maximum exposure level for an eight-hour period is set at 85 dB(A). For peak noise, the maximum exposure level has been set at 120 dB(A).
3. Although exposure to loud noise in the workplace is most often associated with hearing loss and impaired communication, noise exposure can also adversely affect workers’ health and wellbeing even when hearing remains unaffected. Evidence suggests that high noise levels may reduce worker performance and productivity by adversely affecting concentration, levels of stress, annoyance, job satisfaction and motivation.
4. CONTROLLING NOISE EXPOSURE

The ideal solution to excessive noise exposure is to entirely eliminate the noise source. When this is not possible or practical, the Company shall minimize exposure through Engineering Controls and Personal Protective Equipment.

1. Engineering:

* Modify equipment to make them quieter (e.g. through use of mufflers, improved equipment maintenance)
* Treat ceilings and walls with sound absorbing material

1. Personal Protective Equipment:

* Personal hearing protection (i.e., ear plugs, ear muffs)
* Hearing protectors shall be replaced as necessary
* Employees shall be given the opportunity to select their hearing protectors from a variety of suitable hearing protectors provided by the Company
* Hearing protectors shall be available to all employees exposed to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels or greater at no cost to the employees
* Hearing protectors shall be worn by any employee who is exposed to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels or greater
* Employees will wear hearing protection in signed areas while on an owner client facility

1. EMPLOYEE TRAINING
2. The Company shall provide a training program for all employees who are exposed to a noise action level or work in high noise areas. The training shall be repeated annually for each employee. Training shall be updated consistently to include changes in Personal Protective Equipment, work processes, and proper techniques for wearing hearing protection.
3. Training shall address the following at a minimum:
4. Identifying noise,
5. Anatomy of the ear,
6. Controlling noise exposure,
7. Personal protective equipment,
8. The effects of noise on hearing,
9. Work practice and engineering controls, and
10. Proper use and fit of hearing protectors

|  |
| --- |
| **Reviewed and Approved** |
| Quality Manager or President |  |  |
|  | Date |