
FALL RIVER
NEW BEDFORD
PLYMOUTH

3. Overview of Program Applicability

3.1. An evaluation of the work areas and/or personnel is performed to determine if there are high noise areas. Once areas are identified as potential high noise levels, confirmation of prior noise level testing and the levels indicated must be obtained, or the noise levels must be measured to determine personnel time weighted average exposure to noise for personnel working in the high noise areas. The noise levels determine which components of this program apply to personnel working in these areas.

3.2. Option 1: - Below 85 dB(A)-TWA - (Below OSHA Action Level)

3.2.A. No further action required because this hearing conservation program does not apply.

3.2.B. This is typically the level that BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE employees perform their regular jobs / t asks at.

3.3. Option 2 - Between 85 dB(A)-TWA and 90 dB(A)-TWA - (Above OSHA Action Level but below OSHA Permissible Exposure Level)

3.3.A. Annual hearing conservation program training required

3.3.B. Make a copy of the OSHA hearing conservation standard available to all employees (this is typically done by posting a copy of the standard)

3.3.C. Conduct baseline and annual audiograms

3.3.D. Recommend personnel working in the high noise area use hearing protection (unless the audiogram proves a STS has occurred then HPDs are required)

3.4. Option 3 – Greater than 90 dB(A)-TWA - (Above OSHA Permissible Exposure Level) 4.4.A. The same as Option 2 except HPDs are required to be worn by personnel in the area.

3.5. The hearing conservation program flowchart displays the process used to determine the need for a hearing conservation program including the need for monitoring, audiometric testing, training, HPDs, or referral of affected employees.

4. Determination of Noise Levels

4.1. There are several methods that are used for determining noise levels.

4.1.A. Representative Data

4.1.A.1. If there is representative noise monitoring data from a facility similar to the facility that the BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE employees are performing their jobs / tasks, and the work tasks, personnel activities, time of exposures, etc. are similar this may be used to determine noise levels

4.1.B. Facility Performs Noise Dosimetry Monitoring

4.1.B.1. Noise dosimeters are worn by personnel and measure the noise levels to which an individual is exposed to in an area. These are necessary in areas of high noise variability or areas of high worker movement

4.2. Hire Industrial Hygiene Consultant

4.2.A. The client or BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE may use the insurance carrier or hire an outside safety and health consulting company to perform the noise monitoring.

4.3. Sound Pressure Level Noise Data

4.3.A. A sound pressure level meter may be used to measure noise sources to determine if personnel are exposed to above 85 dB(A). The chart in OSHA 1910.95(b)(1) - Table G-16 -

8. Training

8.1. Personnel covered under this program are initially trained in:

8.1.A. The health effects of noise,

8.1.B. The use of hearing protection, including the advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation of various types

8.1.C.