

Hearing Conservation Program

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12.1	PURPOSE
12.2	GENERAL
12.3	RESPONSIBILITIES
12.4	POLICY AND PROCEDURES
12.5	EXPOSURE TESTING AND MONITORING
12.6	EMPLOYEE TRAINING
Exhibit 12A	Noise Sources and Effects

12.1 PURPOSE

To provide a safe and healthful work environment for those employees exposed to substantial workplace noise and to define T.A. Woods Company's policies and procedures for use of hearing protection.

12.2 GENERAL

This policy is written in compliance with the OSHA construction noise standard 29 CFR 1926.52 in which a hearing conservation plan be implemented.

12.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Safety/HR will monitor noise level exposure when requested by superintendents and foreman on construction project sites, fabrication facilities, and when performing service or repair when exposure is anticipated to surpass permissible exposure limit.

Superintendents and foremen will notify Safety/HR of noise exposure concerns and shall require the use of hearing protection devices by employees working in areas of significant noise exposure.

Host employers will be asked to assist T.A. Woods Company by providing necessary information on in-house noise surveys and identifying high noise areas

It will be the policy of T.A. Woods Company to prevent, whenever possible, exposure of employees to noise levels exceeding permissible levels. When noise exposure exceeds permissible levels based on testing and/or historical data, engineering, administrative, work practices, and PPE will be introduced.

12.4 POLICY AND PROCEDURES

12.4.1 Exposure to noise levels of less than permissible exposure limits -Employees exposed to less than 90 dBA (TWA) or other as indicated are not required to be protected from noise levels. However, employees may still be required to wear hearing protection if required by host employer or owner. Employees are permitted to wear voluntary hearing protection at levels under 90 dBA

12.4.2 Exposure to noise levels exceeding 90 dBA (TWA) -All employees shall wear approved hearing protection at all times in areas with noise levels that exceed 90 dBA (TWA). It will be the site superintendent(s) and foreman (men) responsibility to notify and to ensure all employees working under them are aware of the need for hearing protection and comply with the requirements.

See Table Below:

Duration Per Day/Per Hour	Sound Level DBA (TWA)
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1.5	102
1	105
.5	110
.25 or less	115

12.4.3 Examples of equipment which may produce levels sufficient to trigger hearing protection requirements include but are not limited to: welding machines, jack hammers, compactors, compressors, backhoes, powder-actuated tool, and the like.

12.4.4 When noise levels to which employees are exposed exceed these levels, attempts must be made to reduce noise levels through the institution of engineering controls, administrative controls, and work practices.

If no controls are practical or such controls fail to reduce sound levels, personal protective equipment must be used at all times during exposure to sound levels more than the values listed in the table. Approved hearing protection equipment consists of noise attenuating earplugs and muffs. Earplugs will be used according manufacturer’s instructions. Earplugs and muffs will be made available on construction project sites, fabrication facilities, lay down yards, and when servicing or performing maintenance at a host employer’s site.

Employees are encouraged to attach disposable ear plugs to their hardhats to be used as needed. These ear plugs should be inspected regularly and replaced when needed.

Our basic rule of thumb for wearing hearing protection “2 feet communication” If employees are an arms distance from one another and can’t communicate (speak and hear) at a normal conversation level, PPE should be worn.

Employees shall not be exposed to impulsive or impact noises exceeding 140 dBA (TWA) peak sound pressure level.

12.5 TESTING AND MONITORING

12.5.1 Identification of High Noise Areas:

Prior to the commencement of work, superintendents or foremen at each work site will ask the host employer, owner, or general contractor

To identify known or likely high-noise areas and to provide T.A. Woods Company with the result of any surveys, monitoring, tests, or other information indicating noise levels in areas.

12.5.2 Noise Surveys and Historical Data:

At the beginning of any activity that might reasonably be expected to generate noise levels near the values shown in the previous table, TAW will conduct general and formal initial site-specific noise level surveys to assess and document prevalent noise levels. Historical data associated with similar tasks in similar work environments will also be used. The site superintendent and/or foreman will be responsible for advising if noise levels warrant a noise survey.

12.6 EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND TESTING

Hearing conservation training will be conducted initially and as needed for all employees with noise exposure of 90 Dba (TWA) or greater.

12.6.1 Training Topics:

- Effects of noise on hearing
- Cumulative effects of noise
- 2-3foot rule
- Repeated unprotected noise exposure will cause permanent hearing loss
- TAW's Hearing Conservation Program
- Effectiveness of hearing protectors by type