

# Noise Exposure and Hearing Conservation Plan

**Purpose:** To prevent hearing loss due to occupational noise exposure

**Scope:** All Wayne County employees exposed to noise exceeding 85 decibels (TWA).

Wayne County will audit departments and measure noise levels which will be listed in the attachment.

**Attachment:** Noise Levels

## I. Responsibilities

### A. Managers and Supervisors

1. Wayne County shall govern a continuing and effective hearing conservation program whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8 hour time weighted average (TWA) sound level of 85 decibels. (See table 1).
2. Management shall assure noise controls are properly considered in the selection and development of new facilities and equipment.
3. Supervisors shall ensure their employees wear protection in areas exceeding or equal to 85 decibels

Duration per Day, Hours	Sound Level dBA Slow Response
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1 ½	102
1	105
½	110
¼ or less	115

**Table 1.** Permissible Noise Exposures

## B. Safety / Loss Control

1. The hearing conservation program is administered by the Safety / Loss Control Manager. The policy includes the following elements and responsibilities:
  - a. identification of noise hazards
  - b. noise testing and monitoring
  - c. recordkeeping of noise surveys and audits
  - d. hearing protection equipment
  - e. engineering controls
  - f. audiometric testing
  - g. employee training
  - h. training documentation and control

## II. Hearing Conservation and Monitoring Program

- A. Wayne County shall administer a continuing and effective hearing conservation program whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8 hour time weighted average (TWA) of 85 decibels.
- B. When tests indicate that an employee's exposure may equal or exceed an 8 hour TWA of 85 decibels, Wayne County shall implement a monitoring program.
- C. The monitoring program shall be designed to identify employees for inclusion in the hearing conservation program and to enable the proper selection of hearing protection.
- D. Monitoring shall be repeated whenever an equipment or process change increases more exposure.
- E. Employee Notification
  1. Wayne County shall notify each employee exposed at or above an 8 hour TWA of 85 dBA from the results of the monitoring.
- F. Audiometric Training and Testing
  1. Wayne County shall establish and maintain an audiometric testing program provided to all employees whose exposures equal or excel an 8 hour TWA of 85 dBA.

2. The program shall be provided at no cost to the employee
3. Audiometric tests shall be performed by a licensed or certified audiologist or other physician.
4. Wayne County shall obtain a valid baseline audiogram written 1 year of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level.

### **III. Training**

- A. Annual training of hearing conservation will be performed by the Safety / Loss Control Manager.
- B. Employees who are exposed to equal or above the action level are required to participate in the training sessions.
- C. Training shall include:
  1. effects of noise on hearing
  2. purpose of hearing protection
  3. fitting
  4. care of equipment
  5. purpose of audiometric testing

### **IV. Records**

- A. Records are retained by the appointed authority.
- B. Noise exposure measurements are to be retained for at least 3 years.