

11.16.22

HEARING PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION POLICY

LISTEN UP!

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to employee-owners with respect to hearing protection and conservation requirements as they relate to the applicable OSHA standard (29 CFR and 1926.52–Occupational Noise Exposure).

PROJECT TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide employee-owners with hearing protection and conservation information via site orientation, toolbox talks, etc.
- Direct any hearing protection and conservation-related questions or concerns to the Safety Manager.
- Consider noise exposures in planning operations, including but not limited to:
 - + Ambient noise requirements in the municipality
 - + The need to notify involved or affected parties (e.g., building engineering)
 - + The need for separation from neighbors and/or other employee-owners during noise or vibration producing activities.
 - + The use of signage to keep personnel from entering areas where noise levels may exceed OSHA safety standards
 - + All equipment that will be used and the combined effects with respect to noise levels
- Contact the Safety Manager to determine if sound monitoring and/or additional precautions will be necessary.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Employee-owners who are concerned about any operation at hand with respect to noise levels should contact the project supervisor as soon as possible.
- If a tool/operation not referenced in the charts below will be utilized, project teams should contact the Safety Manager to determine if sound monitoring and/or additional controls are needed. This is especially true for electric, gasoline, or air-powered tools, and powder-actuated tools.

When feasible, consider using equipment with lower noise exposure than the current or proposed equipment. When feasible, move loud operations (e.g., generators, compressors, etc.) as far away from employee-owners and public exposure as possible.

APPLICABLE EXPOSURE LEVEL

The company recognizes that certain activities during the construction process will generate different noise levels. To protect all affected employee-owners, the company has adopted the following noise exposure levels based on OSHA safety standards:

EXHIBIT 2.L.001

Permissible Noise Exposure Levels

This chart shows the level of Decibels allowed determined by the duration of work. (Source: 29CFR1926.52, TableD-2 Permissible Noise Exposures)

Duration per day of the Noise-Producing Activity (Hours)	Permissible Noise Level Decibels (dBA) slow
8	90
4	95
2	100
1	105
1/2	110
1/4 or less	115

FOR EXAMPLE

EMPLOYEE-OWNERS COULD WORK NO LONGER THAN 4 HOURS IN AN ENVIRONMENT WITH NOISE LEVELS AT OR ABOVE 95 DBAS WITHOUT HEARING PROTECTION OR OTHER CONTROLS.

Two or more periods of noise exposure at different levels requires that the combined effect be considered (see 1926.52(d)(2)(i))

HEARING PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

The following applies to hearing protection devices that include, but are not limited to, ear plugs, earmuffs, dual protection, noise cancellation devices, etc.: