

HEARING CONSERVATION



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INTRODUCTION

HEARING CONSERVATION

REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Occupational Safety and Health Act under 29 CFR 1910.95 establishes requirements relating to Hearing Conservation. In response to the regulatory mandate, Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. has developed and will maintain the Hearing Conservation Program to provide proper and safe procedures for all applicable employees.

PURPOSE

This document is primarily intended to outline methods of protecting and/or informing all Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. employees where noise levels may exceed 85 dBA within their workplace. In addition, it is intended that Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. will be in full compliance with the OSHA Hearing Conservation Standard 29 CFR 1910.95.

RESPONSIBILITY

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. shall instruct all appropriate employees in the safety significance of the Hearing Conservation Program. In addition, Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. considers these requirements to be of critical importance in helping to ensure that the applicable provisions of the Hearing Conservation Program are known, understood, and strictly adhered to by all employees. It shall be the responsibility of the Safety Director to administer and to continually monitor the Hearing Conservation Program to ensure that all requirements of these procedures are being followed and that any deviations or inadequacies are corrected.

GENERAL

Employee hearing conservation is an important objective in our overall employee protection program. Our major goal is to reduce continuous noise levels below 90 dBA and also reduce impact noises where feasible through engineering and administrative controls.

DEFINITIONS

Hearing Protection Device Personal hearing protective equipment that is worn over the ear (earmuffs) or in the ear (earplugs) to attenuate noise.

dBA Sound level in decibels read on the scale of a sound meter. A unit of measurement of a sound level corrected to the a-weighted scale, as defined in ANSI S1.4-1971 (R1976), using a reference level of 20 micropascals (0.0003 Newton/m²).

Standard Threshold Limit A change in the hearing threshold relative to the baseline audiogram.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Noise Level Monitoring

- A. A survey will be conducted whenever a change in process, procedures, equipment location, or condition could result in an increased noise level.
- B. When information indicates that employee exposure may equal/exceed the 8 hr. time-weighted average of 85 decibels, monitoring shall be implemented to identify those employees to be included in the Hearing Conservation Program.
- C. All purchase agreements for high level noise generating equipment will contain a provision requiring the manufacturer to reduce the noise level below 84dBA where technically and/or economically feasible.

Noise Abatement

All available and practical engineering and administrative controls will be employed to eliminate or control excessive noise at its source. This will include, but not be limited to, replacement of equipment, alternative processes or procedures, machine redesign and isolation, or providing appropriate hearing protection. All hearing protector attenuation will be evaluated within 6 months for the specific noise environment in which the protector is used.

Audiometric Monitoring

- A. An audiometric baseline test will be administered to all employees within six months of first exposure who routinely work in an area with TWA of 85 dBA, initially, and annually thereafter. Baseline will be done at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise.
- B. New employees will be tested prior to job placement and receive appropriate training.

- C. All tests will be administered by a certified audiologist otolaryngologist, qualified physician, or a technician who is certified by the Council of Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation.
- D. All tests will be compared to the baseline (initial) test. If a standard threshold shift (STS) has occurred, these steps will be taken:
 - 1. The test will be repeated within 30 days to confirm or reduce that STS has occurred.
 - 2. If the retest is negative, no further action is necessary.
 - 3. If the retest confirms an STS, the employee will be notified in writing within 21 days from the date of determination.
 - 4. Employees identified, as having STS will be provided hearing protection, trained in its use and required to use it. Employees who already wear hearing protection shall be re-evaluated, re-fitted and re-trained in its proper use.
 - 5. Employees with STS will be referred to a medical clinic for a comprehensive audio logical evaluation.

RECORDKEEPING

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. shall maintain accurate records of all employee exposure measurements and all records shall be maintained as per the code of Federal Regulations, all effected employees will receive copies of all test results of the noise exposure procedures and protocols. Copies shall be posted in the workplace and Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. shall also allow the Assistant Secretary and the Director access to these records.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

All employees exposed to a TWA of 85 dBA or more will be notified and will attend an annual training and shall be updated to be consistent with any changes in Personal Protective Equipment or work processes.

- A. The effects of noise on hearing
- B. The purpose of hearing protectors, the advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation of various types, and instructions on selection, fitting, use, and care.
- C. At least two types of hearing protection will be provided at no cost to all employees exposed to an 8-hour time weighted average of 85 dBA.

Equipment Operations

All employees who are required to operate the following equipment:

- A. Abrasive Saw
- B. Duct Hammer
- C. Powered Hand Tools
- D. Heavy Equipment Operations

As part of their daily job duties, will be required to wear the provided hearing protection.

Special Conditions and Applications

In situations where Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s contract with any vendor requires Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s employees to perform tasks in an area that may exceed OSHA's TWA of 85 dBA, Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s superintendent shall be responsible to coordinate any Requirements or procedures that said vendor has implemented regarding Hearing Conservation and personal protective equipment to all appropriate Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s employees.

In situations where Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. has visitors or other company personnel enter an area of high noise, Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s superintendent shall be responsible to coordinate any requirements or procedures including PPE (hearing protection).

Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.
Employee Training Statement

The purpose of this training is to gain understanding of established **Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s Hearing Conservation Policy**. You are accountable for ensuring that you understand by asking questions and seeking clarification during training and day to-day practical job applications.

This program has been developed to be as workable as possible while accomplishing our safety goals and complying with current OSHA regulations. You are welcome to suggest changes to these procedures.

All suggestions will be evaluated based upon their workability, impact on safety, and compliance with current OSHA regulations.

As one of **Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc.'s Employees**, I have reviewed the latest copy of **Steingass Mechanical Contracting, Inc. Hearing Conservation Policy**, and in addition, I have received the following training:

- A. The effects of noise on hearing
- B. The purpose of hearing protection, the advantages, disadvantages, and attenuation of various types, and instructions on selection, fitting, use, and care.
- C. The purpose of audiometric testing, and an explanation of the test procedures.

Employee Signature _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Time: _____