

STANDARD PRACTICE INSTRUCTION

DATE: March 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Occupational Noise Exposure Policy

REGULATORY STANDARD: OSHA - 29 CFR 1910.95
29 CFR 1926.52 & 101

BASIS: Approximately 16 million workers are exposed to excessive on-the-job noise levels on an annual basis. In addition to causing hearing loss by destroying the inner ear, noise can put stress on other parts of the body causing fatigue and unnecessary psychological stress. This preventable added burden to the body can result in increased injury rates. This poses a serious problem for exposed workers and their employer. The OSHA Occupational Noise Exposure Standard establishes uniform requirements to make sure that the noise hazards associated with all U.S. workplaces are evaluated, and that the hazards associated with high noise are transmitted to all affected workers so that mitigation measures can be instituted.

GENERAL: Nowland Associates, Inc. will ensure that the noise hazards within our facilities and jobsites, are evaluated, and that information concerning the hazards is transmitted to all employees. The majority of work performed by Nowland Associates, Inc. employees is performed at host locations. Whenever policies/programs of host facilities exist, those will take precedence and our employees will follow those requirements. Appropriate hearing protection will be worn whenever levels listed in Table 2.2 are exceeded. This standard practice instruction is intended to address comprehensively the issues of; evaluating the potential hazards of noise, communicating information concerning these hazards, and establishing appropriate protective measures for all employees.

RESPONSIBILITY: The company Safety Officer is solely responsible for all facets of this program and has full authority to make necessary decisions to ensure success of the program. The Safety Officer will develop written detailed instructions covering each of the basic elements in this program, and is the sole person authorized to amend these instructions. This company has expressly authorized the Safety Officer to halt any operation of the company where there is danger of serious personal injury. This policy includes respiratory hazards.

Contents of the Noise Exposure Policy

- 1. Written Program Requirement.**
- 2. Noise Levels.**

Nowland Associates, Inc. Occupational Noise Exposure Program

1. Written program Development. This policy will be reviewed on annual basis and updated as changes in company occur, or as changes are noted to 29 CFR 1910.95, 1926.52 & 101, which require revision of this document. When the criteria listed in the standards is met, then a written Hearing Conservation Program will be developed. Currently, there is no requirement for Nowland Associates, Inc. to meet this requirement. When and if a program is developed, it will be communicated to all personnel that are affected by it. It will encompass the total workplace, regardless of the number of workers employed or the number of work shifts. It will be designed to establish clear goals, and objectives.

2. Noise Levels.

2.1 Nowland Associates, Inc. will establish and maintain an audiometric testing program free of charge for employees whose exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels.

2.2 Nowland Associates, Inc. will provide protection against the effects of noise exposure when the sound levels within our work areas exceed those shown in Table 2.2, when measured on the A scale of a standard sound level meter at slow response.

Table 2.1 PERMISSIBLE NOISE EXPOSURES

Duration per day, hours	Sound level dBA slow response
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1 1/2	102
1	105
0 1/2	110
1/4 or less	115

2.3 Exposure to impulsive or impact noise will not exceed 140 dB peak sound pressure level.