

Self-inspection checklist

Noise: hearing conservation

- Are there areas in your workplace where continuous noise levels exceed 85 dBA?
- Are noise levels measured using a sound-level meter or an octave band analyzer, and are you keeping records of these levels?
- Have you tried isolating noisy machinery from the rest of your operation?
- Have engineering controls been used to reduce excessive noise?
- Where engineering controls are not feasible, are administrative controls used to minimize employee exposure to noise?
- Is there a preventive health program that educates employees about safe levels of noise and exposure, effects of noise on their health, and use of personal protection?
- Are employees who are exposed to continuous noise above 85 dBA retrained annually?
- Have you identified and posted work areas in which noise levels make voice communication difficult?
- Does every employee working in areas where noise levels exceed 90 dBA use approved hearing protection equipment (noise attenuating devices)?
- Are employees properly fitted and instructed in the proper use and care of hearing protection?
- Are employees who are exposed to continuous noise above 85 dBA given periodic audiometric testing to ensure that you have an effective hearing-protection system?