
	Noise Exposure / Hearing Conservation Program				
Control number:	HSE-P-22	Revision date:	8/15/2024	Rev #:	0
Approved by:	Derrick Landry	Revised by:	Madison Myers	MOC#:	N/A

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to protect employees from prolonged exposure to intermittent bursts or continual high noise levels associated with occupational noise hazards.

### 1.0 INITIAL DETERMINATION

- A. Peak NDT Solutions will utilize the services of a third-party tester, with expertise in noise measurement to determine the level of noise in the various work area. A continuing effective hearing conservation program shall be administered when employees are exposed to sound levels greater than 85 dBA on an 8-hour time-weighted average basis.
- B. Peak NDT Solutions will use information obtained through testing, to establish operational procedures and issue noise attenuators suitable for the detected noise levels, when applicable.
- C. Peak NDT Solutions will consider the input of supervisory personnel when making a determination to implement this program in areas where any of the below applies:
  - 1. Employee exposure measurements taken indicate noise levels at or above 85 decibels.
  - 2. An employee complains of working conditions, which may be attributable to exposure to noise.
  - 3. A change in production, equipment, controls or personnel results in the exposure to noise levels which were not evident before.

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## 2.0 MONITORING & EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION


- A. When information indicates that employee exposure may equal/exceed the 8 hr time-weighted avg. of 85 decibels, Peak NDT Solutions shall implement a monitoring program to identify employees to be included in the hearing conservation program.
- B. When monitoring, Peak NDT Solutions will consider employee work areas with intermittent noise fluctuations of 80 decibels to 120 decibels.
- C. Peak NDT Solutions will conspicuously post notices throughout the work place, notifying employees of the need to wear hearing protection in a specific area.

## 3.0 HEARING PROTECTORS

- A. Peak NDT Solutions will provide and replace hearing protection to all employees exposed to an 8-hr. time-weighted average of 85 decibels at no cost to the employee. Employees shall be properly trained in the use, care & fitting of protectors.
- B. Peak NDT Solutions shall evaluate hearing protection for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used.
- C. Supervisors will be responsible for:
  - 1. Ensuring that affected employees properly select and insert earplugs.
  - 2. Monitoring employee compliance to the program.

## 4.0 AUDIOMETRIC TESTING

- A. Peak NDT Solutions has established & will maintain an audiometric testing program by making audiometric testing available to all employees whose exposures equal or exceed an 8-hr. time-weighted avg. of 85 decibels. The program shall be provided at no cost to employees.
- B. Within 6 months of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level, a valid baseline audiogram shall be established against which future audiograms can be compared. When a mobile van is used, the baseline shall be established within 1 yr. Such testing will represent a "baseline" audiogram, for the purpose of determining present hearing range capability. Testing to establish a baseline


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audiogram shall be preceded by at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise. Hearing protection may be used to meet the requirement. Employees shall also be notified to avoid high levels of noise.

- C. At least annually after obtaining the baseline audiogram, Peak NDT Solutions shall obtain a new audiogram for each employee exposed at or above an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels. Each employee's annual audiogram shall be compared to that employee's baseline audiogram to determine if the audiogram is valid and if a standard threshold shift has occurred. If a comparison of the annual audiogram to the baseline audiogram indicates a standard threshold shift, the employee shall be informed of this fact in writing, within 21 days of the determination.
- D. Audiometric testing, when performed, will be conducted by a licensed or certified audiologist, physician or other technician who is certified by the Council of Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation, or another individual who has demonstrated competency in administering audiometric examinations, obtaining valid audiograms and properly using, maintaining and checking calibration and proper functioning of the audiometers being used.
- E. Peak NDT Solutions will provide for re-testing of any employee who complains of hearing loss at any time within ten (10) days of notification. Employees should report any suspected hearing loss to the respective supervisor immediately.

## 5.0 MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

- A. Peak NDT Solutions will rely on expert assessment of the compared audiograms to determine if an employee has experienced a threshold shift of 10 decibels or greater. If a threshold shift has occurred, use of hearing protection shall be re-evaluated and/or refitted and if necessary, a medical evaluation may be required.
- B. Peak NDT Solutions will rely on the authorized medical professional to provide medical evaluation and surveillance to its employees in accordance with the requirements of this program.
- C. Peak NDT Solutions will provide information concerning the respective employee's job functions in an effort to assist the medical professional with this evaluation.
- D. Peak NDT Solutions will rely upon the advice of the treating physician regarding hearing protection for employees whose ears are chronically draining or those

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who have active ear pathology. Such individuals may be removed from the exposed position at the recommendation of Peak NDT Solutions's designated physician.

## 6.0 RECORDKEEPING


Peak NDT Solutions will maintain accurate record of all employee exposure measurements as required by the regulation, including the results of the most recent noise exposure assessment, in a confidential file for the duration of employment and no less than thirty (30) years from the date of the testing.

## 7.0 EMPLOYEE TRAINING

A. Peak NDT Solutions's training program shall be provided for all employees who are exposed to action level noise. The training shall be repeated annually for each employee. Training shall be updated consistent to changes in PPE and work processes. Peak NDT Solutions shall make available to affected employees, copies of the noise exposure procedures and shall also post a copy in the workplace. The employer shall also allow the Assistant Secretary and the Director access to records.

B. Training will include at a minimum:

1. Identifying noise,
2. Anatomy of the ear,
3. Personal protective equipment,
4. Work practice and engineering controls, and
5. Proper use and fit of hearing protectors

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#### REVISION INFORMATION

This is applicable to changes made to the current version of the preceding document.

Revision Number	Description