



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22 (VERNON)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Noise Management SWP 019

A. Purpose

The purpose of this safe work practice is to ensure that employees, contractors and visitors to District worksites are protected from the effects of hazardous industrial noise in excess of the Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL).

B. Application

The conditions and requirements of this safe work practice shall be applied and enforced at all District worksites where workers may be exposed to noise sources greater than the applicable provincial OEL.

C. Practice

The District will ensure that a worker's exposure to noise does not exceed:

- The noise exposure limits identified in Schedule 3, Table 1 of OH&S Code, Part 16, and
- 85 dBA L_{ex} (average noise exposure adjusted to an 8 hour work day).



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Schedule 3, Table 1 - Occupational Exposure Limits

Sound Level (dBA)	Maximum Permitted Duration (hours per day)
82	16 hours
83	12 hours and 41 minutes
84	10 hours and 4 minutes
85	8 hours
88	4 hours
91	2 hours
94	1 hour
97	30 minutes
100	15 minutes
103	8 minutes
106	4 minutes
109	2 minutes
112	56 seconds
115 and greater	0

Note: Exposure levels and exposure durations to be prorated if not specified above.



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- Hearing protection devices should be selected according to CSA Standard Z94.2 –02, Hearing Protection Devices – Performance, Selection, Care, and Use.

The Noise Management safe work practice developed by District 22 is based on a three step approach:

- Elimination of noise at source, re-engineering of equipment generating hazardous noise, and the purchase of equipment that presents a lower hazard where practical;
- Control of generated noise, through the installation of effective sound suppression methods when practicable; and
- Protecting, equipping, and training workers in the proper use of hearing protection and the requirements of the noise management program.

D. Audiometric Testing

District 22 will provide the following:

- An initial baseline test as soon as practicable, but not later than 6 months after the worker is employed, or within 6 months after a worker is exposed to excess noise because of a change in the worker’s duties or process condition;

District 22’s supervisors are responsible for monitoring the use of hearing protection devices in the workplace. This should form part of their regular site inspections.

E. Related References

- Occupational Health & Safety Regulation, British Columbia Regulation 296/97, Part 7: Noise, Vibration, Radiation, and Temperature, Sections 7.1 to 7.3.
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Home.asp>.
- CSA Standard Z94.2 –02, Hearing Protection Devices – Performance, Selection, Care, and Use.
- CSA Standard Z107.56-94 (R1999), Procedures for the Measuring of Occupational Noise Exposure.