



# School District 22 Hearing Conservation Program

## Introduction

This document describes School District No. 22 (Vernon)'s ("SD22") noise control and hearing conservation program.

SD22 is responsible for costs associated with the noise control and hearing conservation program, including the following:

- Providing hearing tests and time for workers to attend the tests
- Providing a variety of hearing protection devices
- Implementing other elements of the program as outlined below
- Installation of engineered noise control material

Workers must take part in the hearing conservation program. Their responsibilities include the following:

- Wear hearing protection in all areas where it's required.
- Complete hearing conservation training and attend site safety meetings to learn how to use hearing protection properly.
- Participate in annual hearing tests.
- Report any concerns about noise to their supervisor.

SD will educate workers on their responsibilities and the basics of hearing loss prevention. (See the "Education and training" section below for more information.)

## 1. Roles and Responsibilities

Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow the program and training provided</li><li>• Use all available mitigation strategies and conduct pre-use inspections</li><li>• Report any concerns or non-compliances</li></ul>
Employer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure availability of tools, materials, appropriate mitigation strategies, training and resources to work in high noise environments safely</li></ul>
Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure workers training is up to date and have appropriate materials and equipment prior to working in high noise environments</li><li>• Support workers in conducting work in accordance with regulation and the program</li></ul>
H&S Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review program annually to ensure the program, tools, resources, equipment, data is relevant and up to date</li><li>• Audit program annually to measure compliance</li><li>• Schedule audiometric testing (hearing tests)</li><li>• Schedule noise surveys as required</li></ul>

## 2. Noise Survey

Noise measurements may only be conducted by qualified person(s) using calibrated equipment. SD22 may conduct a noise survey upon receipt of a complaint or concern. SD22 will conduct a noise survey in areas believed to exceed the occupational exposure limit, or, if there has been a material change.

Inventory of potentially high noise areas:

- Band Rooms
- Mechanical/Autobody
- Woodshops/Carpentry
- Construction

## 3. Training

All employees who work in areas where noise levels exceed occupational exposure limits will receive training on the following annually:

- Noise levels in our workplace
- The effects of noise on hearing
- How to select, use, and maintain hearing protection
- The purpose of hearing testing

## 4. Noise control

Noise Hazard	Recommended Control
Power tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use electric or battery powered tools in place of pneumatic.</li><li>• Do not use defective equipment</li><li>• Lower power settings</li></ul>
Musical Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sound absorbing panels</li><li>• Close doors</li></ul>
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hearing protection</li><li>• Warning signs / restrict access</li><li>• Avoid small rooms – move outdoors where possible</li><li>• Ask students to lower voices</li><li>• Investigate quieter technology</li><li>• Training</li><li>• Minimize gaps in machine guarding</li><li>• Maintain and lubricate equipment</li><li>• Limit length of time you are exposed to noise</li></ul>
Engines/Generators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use shore plugs whenever possible</li><li>• Ensure they are in good working order</li><li>• Consider low dba options</li></ul>

## **5. Hearing protection**

SD22 will provide Class C hearing protection, in settings above 105 dba it is recommended to wear ear plugs with earmuffs over top. Workers must always wear hearing protection when operating equipment/tools or working in an identified area.

## **6. Posting of noise hazard areas**

Workers in posted noise hazard areas must wear hearing protection. In all areas with noise levels greater than 85 dBA  $L_{ex}$ , posted warning signs state that hearing protection is required.

## **7. Hearing tests**

Workers who are not exposed to noise are not tested. New workers assigned to jobs with noise-exposure limits greater than 85dBA are tested within 6 months of being hired. Following the initial test, annual tests are conducted for workers in a high-noise environment.

Upon receiving a hearing test, the worker will be provided with the following information:

- Overall results
- If there has been hearing loss since the last test that is considered beyond normal
- If there are concerns or early warning signs
- Review of hearing protection they are using (fit for purpose, donned correctly, adequate)

## **8. Program review**

The hearing conservation program is to be reviewed annually.

## **9. Inspections**

Workers are responsible for inspecting their hearing protection prior to each use. Faulty PPE should be disposed of and replaced. Leadership and Committee representatives should inspect identified high noise areas during the site inspections.

## **10. Record keeping**

Hearing Tests – Sent to WSBC

Education and training provided to workers – Retained by SD22

Results of noise-exposure measurements (if applicable) – Retained by SD22

Incidents which may result in loss of hearing – Retained by SD22