



Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Administrative Procedure 8.94

8.0 Safe Schools

Administrative Procedure: *Workplace Safety & Health 8.160*

Cross Reference:

Legal Reference: *Workplace Safety & Health M.R. 217/2006 Part 12, Workplace Safety & Health M.R. 227/94, Can/CSA Standard Z107.56-06*

Date Adopted: June 2011

Date Amended: June 2018; June 2024

Introduction:

Evergreen School Division Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Administrative Procedure was developed in compliance with the Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Regulation (227/94) of the Workplace Safety and Health Act to protect the hearing of all employees working for Evergreen School Division.

This part of the regulation follows three principles:

1. It is more effective to reduce the noise levels in the workplace than to rely on hearing protection to protect the workers.
2. Effective training and periodic hearing tests will provide workers with appropriate knowledge about the effects of high noise exposure levels.
3. When it is not possible to reduce noise levels, use of personal hearing protection is required.

Our Purpose:

- practice safe habits in order to prevent hearing loss
- provide hearing tests for those who regularly work where high noise levels exist.

Noise Exposure Assessment:

- Noise sampling shall be conducted any time there is a change in process or equipment, or if there is an alteration or renovation to the workplace.
- If average noise exposure levels in a workplace are 80 dBA or lower, no action is required.
- Noise level testing will be performed in areas in excess of 85 dBA as needed.
- Noise exposure assessments will be conducted according to the requirements of the CAN/CSA Standard Z107.56-06, Measurement of Occupational Exposure to Noise (i.e. time weighted average for eight hours).
- Written reports of the assessments will be posted in a prominent location at the workplace.
- Warning signs must be posted prominently at the entrance to all work areas where sound is above 85 dBA.
- Warning signs, that specify the use of hearing protection while operating, must be displayed in a conspicuous location on all equipment that generates noise which exceeds or may exceed the

sound level exposure limit of 80 dBA.

Noise Level Exposure Controls:

If a noise exposure assessment indicates employees are exposed to levels above 85 dBA, Evergreen School Division will implement sound control measures to reduce the noise exposures to below 85dBA.

Noise induced hearing loss can be prevented in the workplace by controlling exposure through:

- Engineering Controls: Maintain and or modify equipment to reduce noise levels between sound sources and employees where reasonably practical.
- Administrative Controls: Reduce the time employees spend in noisy areas or provide quiet periods by modifying work cycles (time weighted average over eight (8) hours).
- Personal Hearing Protection: Mandatory use of appropriate hearing protection that will effectively reduce the amount of sound energy reaching the ear drum.

Hearing Protection:

Evergreen School Division, upon request will provide hearing protection to employees exposed to sound levels over 80 dBA. but less than 85 dBA (must be a time weighted average for eight hours).

Evergreen School Division will provide hearing protection to employees exposed to sound levels that are at 85 dBA or higher. Hearing protectors must meet the requirements of CAN/CSA Standard Z94.2-02 Hearing Protection Devices - Performance, Selection, Care and Use.

The employees shall be instructed in the procedures and proper use of hearing protection devices to ensure compliance.

Hearing Testing:

Evergreen School Division will provide biennial audiometric testing (at no cost to the employee) for all employees exposed to noise levels above 85 dBA who regularly work where high noise levels exist.

Audiometric baseline hearing tests will be conducted for all new employees hired to perform duties within an identified high noise risk area such as:

- Gymnasiums
- Band Classrooms
- Industrial Arts Shops
- Power Mechanic Shops

Audiometric hearing tests will be conducted biennially thereafter.

Employee audiometric testing will be completed by licensed Industrial Audiometric Technicians (as defined in Part 12 of the *Workplace Safety & Health Act*).

Audiometric test results are confidential and will be discussed with each employee who will also receive a copy of the test results. A copy of the report is also provided to Evergreen School Division.

The assessments are tracked to ensure controls are adequate.

Employee Responsibilities:

Employees must ensure they adhere to the Evergreen School Division **8.94 Hearing Conservation and Noise Control (WSH)** procedure. This includes:

- being aware of and following the procedure
- following guidelines set out by their Supervisor(s)
- using control measures designed for reducing noise
- wearing personal protective equipment where required.