

SAFE WORK PRACTICE

TITLE	Hearing Protection
GENERAL	Protecting workers from injuries associated with excessive noise and improper use of hearing protection.
APPLICATION	Noise levels must be assessed when any new job begins, and employees must ensure the proper use of hearing protection.
PROTECTIVE MECHANISMS	Safe work procedure PPE: as per company policy
SELECTION AND USE	Manufacturer's specifications As per safe work procedure
SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY	To facilitate and/or provide proper instruction to their workers on protection requirements and training
WORKER RESPONSIBILITY	<p>Hearing protectors reduce the amount of sound energy reaching the ears</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improper fit and a low percentage of time worn greatly reduces the effectiveness of hearing protection. 2. Select hearing protection that is: 3. correct for the job 4. adequately reducing sound frequencies. Check manufacturer's literature 5. comfortable enough to be accepted & worn during all exposure to noise 6. Ear plugs are inserted to block the ear canal. They may be pre molded (preformed) or moldable (such as glass down, foam plastic, waxed cotton). 7. Canal caps are comprised of 2 ear plugs held over the ends of the ear canal by a rigid headband 8. Ear muffs are comprised of sound attenuating material & soft ear cushions which fit around the ear and hard outer cups. They are held together by a head band. 9. do not use radio headsets as a substitute for hearing protectors 10. do not modify hearing protectors <p>CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. refer to the manufacturer's instruction 2. check hearing protection regularly for wear or tear 3. replace ear cushions or plugs that are no longer pliable 4. replace unit when head bands are so stretched that they do not keep ear cushions snugly against the head 5. disassemble ear muffs to clean 6. wash hearing protectors with a mild liquid detergent in warm water and then rinse in clear warm water 7. ensure that sound attenuating material inside cushions does not get wet 8. use a soft brush to remove skin oil and dirt which can harden ear cushions 9. squeeze excess moisture from the plugs or cushions and then place on a clean surface to air dry <p>FIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. follow manufacturer's instruction 2. ensure hearing protector tightly seals within the ear canal or against the side of the head
<p>* The information presented in this publication is intended for general use and may not apply to every circumstance. It is not a definitive guide to government regulations and does not relieve persons using this publication from their responsibilities under applicable legislation.</p>	