

## WAC 296-817-20005 Conduct employee noise exposure monitoring.

- (1) You must conduct employee noise exposure monitoring to determine the employee's actual exposure when reasonable information indicates that any employee's exposure may equal or exceed 85 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>.

Chapter 296-817 WAC  
Safety and Health Core Rules

Hearing Loss Prevention (Noise)

*Note: Representative monitoring may be used where several employees perform the same tasks in substantially similar conditions.*

*Examples of information or situations that can indicate exposures which equal or exceed 85 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub>, include:*

1. *Noise in the workplace that interferes with people speaking, even at close range.*
2. *Information from the manufacturer of equipment you use in the workplace that indicates high noise levels for machines in use.*
3. *Reports from employees of ringing in their ears or temporary hearing loss.*
4. *Warning signals or alarms that are difficult to hear.*
5. *Work near abrasive blasting or jack hammering operations.*
6. *Use of tools and equipment such as the following:*
  - a. *Heavy equipment or machinery.*
  - b. *Fuel-powered hand tools.*
  - c. *Compressed air-driven tools or equipment in frequent use.*
  - d. *Power saws, grinders or chipper.*
  - e. *Powder-actuated tools.*

- (2) You must follow applicable guidance in WAC 296-817-300 when conducting noise exposure monitoring;
- (3) You must make sure your sampling for noise exposure monitoring identifies:
  - (a) All employees whose exposure equals or exceeds the following:
    - (i) 85 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub> (noise dosimetry, providing an average exposure over an 8-hour time period);
    - (ii) 115 dBA (slow response sound level meter, identifying short-term noise exposures);
    - (iii) 140 dBC (fast response sound level meter, identifying almost instantaneous noise exposures).
  - (b) Exposure levels for selection of hearing protection.
- (4) You must provide exposed employees and their representatives with an opportunity to observe any measurements of employee noise exposure that are conducted.
- (5) You must notify each employee whose exposure equals or exceeds 85 dBA TWA<sub>8</sub> of the monitoring results within five working days of when you receive the results.

*Note: Conditions that may be expected to increase exposure include:*

1. *Adding machinery to the work area.*
2. *Increasing production rates.*
3. *Removal or deterioration of noise control devices.*
4. *Increased use of noisy equipment.*
5. *Change in work schedule.*
6. *Change of job duties.*