

Part	OHS Code	Intent	P	C	Risk	Guideline Statement
Part 16 Noise Exposures						
Duty to reduce	216 An employer must ensure that all reasonably practicable measures are used to reduce the noise to which workers are exposed in areas of the work site where workers may be present.	Exposure to excessive noise can be harmful to workers.	L	H	M	Reasonably practicable measures must be taken to reduce worker exposure to excessive noise.
Noise control design	217(1) An employer must ensure that the following are designed and constructed in such a way that the continuous noise levels generated are not more than 85 dBA or are as low as reasonably practicable: (a) a new work site; (b) significant physical alterations, renovations or repairs to an existing work site or work area; (c) a work process introduced to the work site or work area; (d) significant equipment introduced to the work site or work area. 217(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to alterations, renovations or repairs begun or work processes or equipment introduced before April 30, 2004.	Prolonged noise levels over 85 dBA at the work site can cause harm to workers.	L	H	M	Reasonably practicable efforts must be made to reduce continuous noise levels which are above 85 dBA.
Worker exposure to noise	218 An employer must ensure that a worker's exposure to noise does not exceed (a) the noise exposure limits in Schedule 3, Table 1, and (b) 85 dBA L_{ex} .	Excessive noise levels can be harmful to workers.	L	H	M	When noise levels exceed safe limits, employers must either remove employees from source of noise, reduce noise levels if possible or provide noise protection equipment.
Noise exposure assessment	219(1) If workers are, or may be, exposed to noise at a work site in excess of 85 dBA L_{ex} and the noise	It is important to properly assess noise in work sites	L	M	L	When noise levels exceed safe limits, a noise exposure assessment

	<p>exposure limits in Schedule 3, Table 1, an employer must do a noise exposure assessment under section 7.</p> <p>219(2) A person who assesses noise exposure at a work site must measure the noise in accordance with CSA Standard Z107.56-06, <i>Procedures for the Measurement of Occupational Noise Exposure</i>.</p> <p>219(3) A person who measures noise exposure at a work site must use</p> <p>(a) a sound level meter meeting the requirements for a Type 2 instrument as specified by ANSI Standard S1.4-1983 (R2006), <i>Specification for Sound Level Meters</i>,</p> <p>(b) a noise dosimeter meeting the requirements for a Type 2 instrument as specified by ANSI Standard S1.25-1991 (R1997), <i>Specification for Personal Noise Dosimeters</i>, and set at</p> <p>(i) a criterion level of 85 dBA with a 3 dB exchange rate,</p> <p>(ii) a threshold level at or below 80 dBA or “off”, and</p> <p>(iii) slow response,</p> <p>(c) an integrating sound level meter meeting the requirements as specified by ANSI Standard S1.43-1997, <i>Specifications for Integrating- Averaging Sound Level Meters</i>, or IEC Standard 61672-1 (2002), <i>Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 1: Specifications</i> and IEC</p>	<p>which may be at a harmful levels to help identify the proper protocols to implement.</p>				<p>must be conducted by a competent person.</p>
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	<p>Standard 61672-2 (2003), <i>Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 2: Pattern evaluation tests</i>, or</p> <p>(d) equipment approved by a Director of Occupational Hygiene.</p> <p>219(4) An employer must ensure that a noise exposure assessment is</p> <p>(a) conducted and interpreted by a competent person, and</p> <p>(b) updated if a change in equipment or process affects the noise level or the length of time a worker is exposed to noise.</p>					
Results recorded	<p>220(1) An employer must ensure that results of noise exposure measurements are recorded and include</p> <p>(a) the dates of measurements,</p> <p>(b) the workers or occupations evaluated,</p> <p>(c) the type of measuring equipment used,</p> <p>(d) the sound level readings measured, and</p> <p>(e) the work location evaluated.</p> <p>220(2) An employer must ensure that</p> <p>(a) a copy of the results of the noise exposure assessment is available on request to an affected worker or an officer, and</p> <p>(b) the record of the noise exposure assessment is retained for as long as the employer operates in Alberta.</p>	Records of noise exposure assessments can help in future insurance claims as well as to help mitigate work site problems in the future.	L	M	M	Results from noise exposure assessments must contain information pertaining to the noise levels, worksite location, workers evaluated, and equipment and/or procedures used to mitigate levels. As well, the records must be maintained for the life of the business and available to affected workers.
Noise management program	<p>221(1) If a noise exposure assessment confirms that workers are exposed to excess noise at a work site, the employer must develop and implement a noise management program that includes policies and procedures.</p>	A noise management protocol and training will help employee awareness of the dangers and precautions to be taken.	L	M	L	A noise management protocol must be implemented if a noise exposure assessment confirms workers are

	<p>221(2) The employer must ensure that the noise management program includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a plan to educate workers in the hazards of exposure to excess noise and to train workers in the correct use of control measures and hearing protection; (b) the methods and procedures to be used when measuring or monitoring worker exposure to noise; (c) the posting of suitable warning signs in any work area where the noise level exceeds 85 dBA; (d) the methods of noise control to be used; (e) the selection, use and maintenance of hearing protection devices to be worn by workers; (f) the requirements for audiometric testing and the maintenance of test records; (g) an annual review of the policies and procedures to address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the effectiveness of the education and training plan, (ii) the need for further noise measurement, and (iii) the adequacy of noise control measures. <p>221(3) A worker who is subject to noise management must cooperate with the employer in implementing the policies and procedures.</p>					<p>exposed to excessive noise.</p> <p>If there is exposure to harmful levels of noise, the employer must ensure workers are trained to understand noise exposure issues, protocols to follow, and protective equipment usage and maintenance.</p>
Hearing protection	<p>222(1) An employer must ensure that hearing protection equipment provided to workers exposed to excess noise</p>	<p>Noise protection equipment and training on the use of the equipment is important to help workers protect themselves.</p>	L	H	M	<p>Hearing protection equipment must meet standards and workers need to be trained in the use and maintenance of</p>

	<p>(a) meets the requirements of CSA Standard Z94.2-02, <i>Hearing Protection Devices – Performance, Selection, Care, and Use</i>, and</p> <p>(b) is of the appropriate class and grade as described in Schedule 3, Table 2.</p> <p>222(2) An employer must</p> <p>(a) provide workers with training in the selection, use and maintenance of hearing protection equipment required to be used at a work site in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications, and</p> <p>(b) ensure that affected workers wear the required hearing protection equipment.</p> <p>222(3) Workers who are provided with hearing protection equipment must wear and use the equipment in accordance with the training provided by the employer.</p>					hearing protection equipment.
Audiometric testing	<p>223(1) An employer must provide, at the employer’s expense, the following audiometric tests for a worker exposed to excess noise:</p> <p>(a) an initial baseline test as soon as is practicable, but not later than six months after the worker is employed or within six months after a worker is exposed to excess noise because of a change in the worker’s duties or process conditions,</p> <p>(b) not more than 12 months after the initial baseline test, and</p> <p>(c) at least every second year after the test under clause (b).</p> <p>223(2) An employer must ensure that audiometric tests are administered by an</p>	Audiometric testing helps to measure and monitor the effects that workers might experience when exposed to excessive noise in the workplace.	L	M	M	If there is exposure to harmful levels of noise, the employer must ensure proper audiometric testing is conducted on workers. The records related to the tests and other person health records must be maintained confidentially for the workers privacy.

	<p>audiometric technician who must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) work in consultation with a physician, audiologist or occupational health nurse designated by the employer,(b) maintain a log book for each audiometer being used that<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) contains the audiometer's written calibration records, and(ii) remains with the audiometer throughout its useful lifetime,(c) conduct the tests in a location where background noise levels do not exceed those specified in Schedule 3, Table 3,(d) record the results of the audiometric tests,(e) provide a copy of the test results to the worker,(f) retain the records of the audiometric tests for a period of not less than 10 years, and(g) ensure that the medical history information is under the sole control of the person designated under subsection (2)(a). <p>223(3) If the results of an audiometric test indicate an abnormal audiogram or show an abnormal shift, the audiometric technician must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) advise the worker of the test results,(b) request the worker to provide, and the worker must provide, relevant medical history, and(c) forward the results that indicate an abnormal audiogram or an abnormal shift, the medical history and the baseline audiogram to a					
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	<p>physician or audiologist designated by the employer to receive this information.</p> <p>223(4) If the physician or audiologist designated by the employer confirms the audiogram as abnormal or the occurrence of the abnormal shift, the physician or audiologist must</p> <p>(a) advise the worker to that effect within 30 days,</p> <p>(b) with the written consent of the worker, provide results of the audiometric tests to the worker's physician,</p> <p>(c) advise the employer as to the effectiveness of the noise management program in place at the work site, and</p> <p>(d) retain the records of the audiometric test for a period of not less than 10 years.</p> <p>223(5) A person must not release records of audiometric tests conducted on a worker or medical history received from a worker as required by this section to any person without the worker's written permission except in accordance with this section.</p>					
Credit of time	<p>224 If it is not reasonably practicable for a worker to undergo audiometric testing during the worker's normal working hours, the employer must</p> <p>(a) credit the time the worker spends to get the test done as time at work, and</p> <p>(b) ensure that the worker does not lose any pay or other benefits because the worker was tested.</p>	Audiometric testing is important for worker safety and an obligation on the employer.	L	L	L	When not reasonably practicable for audiometric testing to occur during work hours employees must be compensated for their time.